United Nations S/PV.7206

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7206th meeting

Tuesday, 24 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Iliichev	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaite
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Lee Kyung Chul
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-43912 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Her Excellency Ms. Marguerite Marie Maliavo-Samba, Minister for Public Health, Social Affairs, Gender and Humanitarian Action of the Central African Republic.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Babacar Gaye, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Gaye, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Bangui.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Gaye.

Mr. Gaye (*spoke in French*): I express my deep respect to the Council and I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to update its members, from my vantage point in Bangui, on the situation in the Central African Republic. The security situation remains tense in the capital and within the country. The recent attack on the Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Bangui on 28 May, in which 11 people, including the priest, were killed, illustrates not only the dangerous spiral of attacks and reprisals affecting the country, but also a radicalization of both parties and the risk that the situation may grow more deadly yet.

The attack followed an incident in Bangui in the same week, in which three young Muslims were brutally killed, probably by anti-Balaka elements, while traveling to a football match organized to promote intercommunal reconciliation. These events provoked spontaneous popular demonstrations against what some consider to be a failure on the part of the transitional authorities and international forces to restore security. A number of barricades were erected in the city and had to be removed by international forces. Bangui was paralysed for three days and several people were killed.

The spiral of violence and retaliation has also affected the interior of the country, in the west and the centre in particular. In the north-west, along the border with Chad, an increasing number of attacks on villages by heavily armed ex-Séléka and Peuhl groups — the Mbororos — were reported. This probably indicates an attempt on the part of the ex-Séléka to extend their area of control to the west, even as the anti-Balakas are strengthening their presence in these same areas. Consequently, there have been a number of violent clashes between anti-Balakas and ex-Séléka.

(*spoke in English*)

Many villages have been set ablaze, causing the displacement of local populations. Ex-Séléka have also enhanced their presence in Bambari, where they established their military command centre. Forces from the African-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic (MISCA) and Operation Sangaris have been deployed to Bambari.

Civilian communities remain direct targets of sectarian violence and reprisal killings. Yesterday, for example, in Bambari, 18 people were reportedly killed, including 3 children and 1 woman, and 8 were wounded in an attack by anti-Balaka against the Peuhl. Twenty-two houses were set ablaze. In retaliation, the ex-Séléka killed eight persons and wounded four later in the day. Another 129 civilians sought refuge at the MISCA base, of which 58 were moved from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) compound.

The few Muslim communities that are left in Bangui remain largely confined to their neighbourhoods, mainly in the PK5 district. They are encircled by anti-Balaka who are not only preventing people from leaving but are also cutting off food and medical supplies. There are also reports of anti-Balaka targeting non-Muslim individuals who are believed to be helping Muslim populations through the provision of supplies or services. Elements of the Central African Armed Forces

are involved in many of those incidents alongside the anti-Balaka. Throughout the country, approximately 20,000 people from minority communities are trapped in 16 locations; if they leave, they may be attacked before they reach safety.

MISCA and Operation Sangaris are doing their best to stabilize the situation and protect civilians in their areas of deployment, while humanitarian actors are addressing the critical needs of the displaced people. However, their conditions remain precarious. The European Union military operation in the Central African Republic has now reached its full operational capability and is providing security at the Bangui airport as well as in the third and fifth arrondissements of Bangui. We are working closely with those forces to coordinate efforts to enhance the protection of populations under threat and to prevent further violence. However, the protection needs in the country are enormous, and there is an urgent need to strengthen MISCA's capabilities to provide an effective response. Furthermore, international forces can be effective only if their efforts are coupled with effective measures to extend State authority, mediate between communities and armed groups and fight impunity — most important, by restoring the penal chain. MINUSCA is focusing on supporting initiatives in those areas.

The MINUSCA guard unit is now deployed in Bangui, Bouar and Bambari. It has proven to be a critical asset in ensuring the security of United Nations installations and personnel and to extricate staff members under threat.

The human rights and humanitarian situation remains of serious concern. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law continue to be committed by all armed groups and civilians, using weapons with impunity. More than half a million people remain displaced, including 370,000 who have crossed the borders, placing a significant strain on neighbouring countries. Half the population of the Central African Republic is in need of humanitarian assistance.

Let me now turn to the political situation, which has deteriorated noticeably over the past month. The continuing insecurity created by the various armed groups is improving too slowly to satisfy the population. That has led to growing criticism about the inability of the Transitional Government to deliver on security, which risks undermining its authority. The Government is struggling to govern the country without its own security forces or financial means. At the same time, the political elite are deeply divided, and there is a high level of political and social antagonism and distrust among political actors and among communities. That does not bode well for the holding of credible elections early next year.

The recent attempt by the ex-Séléka to unify its structures and the establishment of its headquarters in the central city of Bambari were perceived by both the Government and parts of the population as a provocative attempt at de facto partition. However, political cohesiveness within the ex-Séléka structure remains weak. The anti-Balaka movement remains highly fluid, despite ongoing efforts to create an organizational and command structure. It is still difficult to gauge what role the anti-Balaka could or should play in the political dialogue that the country must begin.

There is no doubt that disarmament and an inclusive political dialogue are essential steps to achieve lasting security. The recent seminar facilitated by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue at the request of the Head of State of the Transition and the dialogue initiative of a local non-governmental organization are encouraging developments. They indicate that many Central Africans are ready for dialogue if they believe it will bring peace. Such dialogue should lead to a political agreement with regard to elections, disarmament and the composition of the national armed forces and other key political issues, including the future of governance, decentralization, the question of constructively addressing the root causes of the crisis, and the economic future. That will be vital to create the conditions conducive to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Based on our consultations with key regional actors, including the mediator, President Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, a representative of President Deby Itno of Chad, the Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States and national stakeholders, we believe that there is an immediate need to support an inclusive negotiation process on disarmament that results in a political agreement and the eventual disarmament of all armed groups. There is no doubt that the process will be complicated and will certainly require time to fully evolve. It is essential that the dialogue process be owned by Central Africans. However, there will be no lasting solution without the continued engagement of the subregion.

MINUSCA is working with the transitional authorities and the international security forces to prevent further violence in the capital and throughout

the country, including by investigating violations and in order to take concrete measures to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. To that end, MINUSCA is increasing its civilian component and preparing for its deployment to a number of locations outside Bangui by the end of July, with a focus on supporting local authorities and enhancing efforts to protect civilians. Efforts continue to establish the peacekeeping operation and prepare for a seamless transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA on 15 September. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will brief the Council in mid-July on the state of play with regard to the deployment of the peacekeeping operation and the transition from MISCA to MINUSCA.

(*spoke in French*)

The attention that the international community has paid to the Central African Republic in recent months has contributed to preventing the country from falling further into the spiral of violence. MINUSCA, the United Nations country team and the international forces continue to make the necessary efforts to support the authorities and the people of the Central African Republic to address immediate challenges and prevent a further deterioration of the situation. However, the situation in the Central African Republic remains complex and multifaceted. Facing it will require time and resources. The continued commitment and resolve of the region and the wider international community and a unified and cohesive approach will be critical factors in achieving that goal.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. Gaye for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka: I thank you, Mr. President, for inviting me to brief the Council today on my recent visit to the Central African Republic. A month ago I visited Bangui on a joint mission with the Special Envoy of the African Union on Women, Peace and Security. Our joint presence strengthened the coordination and standing of the Mission, as well as the potential for joint follow-up action with the African Union (AU).

In the Central African Republic, we met with the President, the Prime Minister, key ministers and Government officials, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the African Union Chair, Special Representative and Head of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), the United Nations country team, the Technical Follow-Up Committee on the Crisis in the Central African Republic, the High-Level Women's Advisory Group, 17 civil society organizations, 16 women's organizations, religious leaders and many internally displaced persons (IDPs). We received enormous support from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of MISCA and their teams, for which I am grateful.

Our goals were to give visibility to the plight of women and girls, ensure that gender issues were addressed from the outset in the newly established United Nations Mission and promote women's participation and leadership in local reconciliation, national dialogues, transitional justice and upcoming elections.

What we heard and what we saw was terrifying. In displacement camps all over the country, including the one we visited, people seek shelter under plastic covers or even pieces of cloth in inhumane conditions, surrounded by dirty puddles of stagnant water and garbage, vulnerable to water-borne diseases. The international community has received numerous reports of rape, sexual slavery and other violations perpetrated by armed actors. Those reports were confirmed in December by a United Nations fact-finding mission led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and supported by UN-Women. That violence has taken place in house-to-house searches, unauthorized roadblocks and military camps, and as part of sectarian violence. We learned that girls were frequently subjected to forced marriage. Many have become pregnant, miscarried or contracted sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. There is a great need for medical and psychosocial support at IDP sites, 90 per cent of which lack services for survivors of gender-based violence. The very few services that are available assist hundreds of rape victims every month.

An untold number of pregnant women do not have access to basic reproductive and obstetric care. That is a matter of life and death in a country where a woman's risk of maternal death is already 140 times higher than in a developed country. What I heard over and over again from women was that they needed security and the rule of law, health care, food and schools for their children. Those were some of their greatest needs. Almost two thirds of schools remain closed,

and hundreds of thousands of children are growing up without an education.

Neighbouring countries are struggling to provide adequate support for tens of thousands of refugees. Cameroon now hosts approximately 100,000 newly arrived refugees, of whom 84 per cent are women and children who arrived after travelling for many days or weeks and are often sick and traumatized. They arrive to find one nurse and fewer than a few dozen hygiene and medical kits for assisting thousands. It is important to highlight those alarming and distressing facts because, as of today, the international community has funded less than one third of the humanitarian appeal.

Today I would like to call urgently for the full funding of that appeal. But I would also like to draw the Council's attention to a very different side of the Central African Republic. Against the odds, many people, including women from all walks of life, are organizing to survive and prosper. Young people asked us to support and lead them in rehabilitating their peers who had been affected by violence or who had also participated in violent acts. Women leaders separated by religious and social divides are clear in their resolve to bridge their differences and build a better future for their country. They are organized and full of plans, ideas and courage. They are particularly asking for support in order to engage in women's economic activity, for psychosocial assistance and for help in restoring their country's educational system.

I urge members of the Security Council to support the women of the Central African Republic and to implement the gender-equality recommendations made by the United Nations electoral needs assessment mission. The success of reconciliation initiatives, the upcoming elections and national recovery depends on women's leadership and participation. Priority should be given to special temporary measures and quotas for women's representation, as well as protection and security from MINUSCA for women's participation in the elections.

Stronger action must be taken to protect civilians and restore State authority and the rule of law. As the Council knows, most courts and prisons have ceased to function, and many civil servants and magistrates have abandoned their positions. UN-Women is taking part in a joint programme that will improve women's access to justice. It will focus on survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and on building the capacity of national institutions, while also deploying mobile courts and holding perpetrators accountable. We note the efforts of the International Commission of Inquiry and the President's recent request to the International Criminal Court. Efforts to secure justice at all levels must be supported, and UN-Women has offered to provide dedicated gender-crime investigators.

We also welcome the Council's recent decision to establish a robust peacekeeping mission in MINUSCA, building on the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States and the African Union, and on the support offered by the French forces and the European Union mission. This year's initial deployment of gender and women's protection advisers must be strengthened next year. That expertise must expand beyond Bangui to the regions and be embedded in all of the Mission's priority areas. To build durable national security, we need more women in the Mission's military, police and civilian components.

I am pleased to announce that, for the first time, UN-Women and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will offer specialized predeployment training on preventing sexual violence. I urge all troop-contributing countries to take up the offer and support the full implementation of this training in their countries. I also urge the international community and members of the Security Council to increase funding for the safety and protection of women and girls, for women's economic empowerment and for education. We know that women's employment, entrepreneurship and child care all have a significant impact on family and community recovery and can be a powerful investment for peacebuilding.

UN-Women will work with partners, including the AU, to ensure that emergency employment programmes include women as at least 40 per cent of their beneficiaries. We encourage all international partners to adhere to the United Nations policy on earmarking 15 per cent or more of funding for women's empowerment and gender equality.

UN-Women is also partnering with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to respond to the urgent needs of women and girls in refugee sites in Cameroon and to support women's access to humanitarian aid in the Central African Republic.

To reiterate, I request the Council to ensure that MINUSCA has the proper gender architecture to fulfil its mission, that troop-contributing countries

provide all troops access to training on the prevention of sexual violence, that women be represented in all processes that deal with peacemaking, peacebuilding and reconciliation, that election preparations place women's representation and participation at their centre, that efforts to rebuild the justice system and secure accountability for grave crimes include dedicated sexual and gender crimes experts and that our humanitarian response be scaled up, both within and outside the country, and that education and economic well-being are addressed.

The women we met in the Central African Republic, including interim President Samba-Panza, must be supported to play their full and equal role as agents of change, peace and security. Empowered women are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation and the best buffer against the radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence. Their voices must be heard.

In going about my work, I have been touched by the level of awareness among women around the world of the Security Council's decisions on women and peace and security. This body has made very significant promises to women, most recently in resolution 2122 (2013) and resolution 2149 (2014), on the Central African Republic, and has included strong language on women's participation, leadership and protection. UN-Women stands ready to support the Council to implement those strong commitments and to keep its promises.

Once again, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to our discussion.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Central African Republic.

Ms. Maliavo-Samba (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, on behalf of Mrs. Catherine Samba-Panza, President of the Republic and Head of the Transitional State, and His Excellency Mr. André Nzapayeke, Prime Minister and Head of the Transitional Government, I would like to express my country's thanks for the ongoing attention the Council has given to the crisis currently rocking our country. I would also like to thank the Executive Director of UN-Women for everything that her organization has done for our country. She has described the situation of women during the crisis in the Central African Republic.

To respond to the crisis, our country must face several challenges. There are the security crisis, which must be addressed in order to guarantee the rights of everyone living in our country, including women, who are the main victims of the crisis. With respect to the security challenge, today, as we know, the Central African Republic does not have a national army to guarantee security and the rights of individuals. The Central African Republic is under embargo, which is why we cannot fully shoulder our sovereign duties.

There is also the legal challenge. Today, the judicial system in the Central African Republic is sick. The police force needs to be rehabilitated. Judges must also take up their work. But none of that can happen unless there is security. Judges cannot return to their posts in the back country due to security issues. Criminals thus have free rein to commit harmful acts.

There is are also the challenge of governance. The rebuilding of public State institutions is crucial, but today, again because of security issues, the prefects who represent the Government in the back country cannot return to their posts. Therefore, the State is for all practical purposes confined to the capital: the State basically does not exist in the back country.

I would therefore very humbly ask for the Security Council's support so that all of the compassion that has been expressed for the Central African Republic can truly be translated into deeds. It is time for us to take action to save all of the lives that are being lost with every day, minute and second that pass.

I would also like to note that the current crisis in the Central African Republic is not a sectarian crisis, as has been widely broadcast. It began as an inter-communal problem, and the sectarian aspect came about as a result of political manipulation and — we must underscore this here today — the negative influence of certain media outlets, at both the national and international levels.

I would like to express my satisfaction regarding the mission to the Central African Republic led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Today, in Geneva, the independent expert, Ms. Keita Bocoum, presented her report on human rights in the Central African Republic to me. She will of course also present it to the Security Council here in New York.

Another mission also took place — that of the Commission of Inquiry, also in Bangui. It will also present its report to the Council shortly.

Given the limited means at the disposal of the Central African Republic today, it is important for the Government to receive support in order for it to be able to bring to justice the criminals who continue to practice sexism, rape and kill; for that to come to an end in our country and for the entire population to have its dignity restored. Therefore, on behalf of my country, I call for action — and, I would emphasize, swift, effective action — to be taken. The Executive Director of UN-Women stated that only one third of the funds necessary to meet humanitarian needs are currently being provided. It is important that everyone suffering in camps for internally displaced persons or as refugees in neighbouring countries be taken into account in the various efforts that will be undertaken. What is at stake at the regional level as a result of the Central African crisis is significant. It is also urgent for the humanitarian aid that is to be provided to the Central African Republic to also be provided to Central Africans who are in neighbouring countries and who are living in very difficult circumstances.

Those are, Sir, the few points that I wanted to submit to the Council for its consideration.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7207

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7207th meeting
Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Stancanelli
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Rwanda	Mr. Manzi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Lord

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2014/342)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44083 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2014/342)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/430, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2014/342, which contains the thirty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is my understandign that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

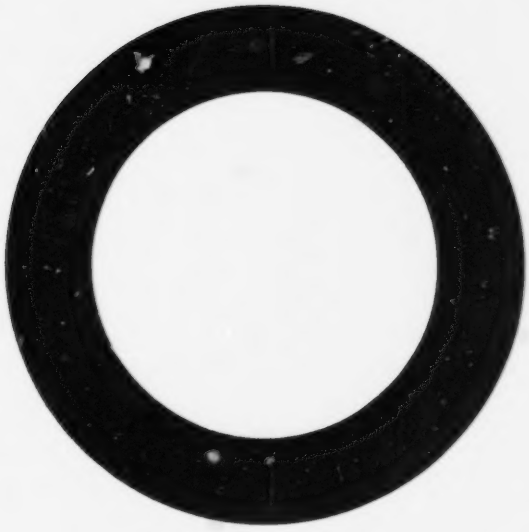
In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adospted unanimously as resolution 2162 (2014).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.



United Nations S/PV.7208

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7208th meeting

Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 10.10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin/Mr. Pankin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. De Antueno
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Rwanda	Mr. Manzi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2014/420)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44089 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2014/420)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Afghanistan, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Pakistan, Spain and Turkey to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Kubiš, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Kabul.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/420, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kubiš.

Mr. Kubiš: The report of the Secretary-General of 18 June (S/2014/420) provides a comprehensive account of the events and trends of the recent quarter. It was finalized prior to the second round of polling on 14 June. I shall therefore provide an update on election-related events since then, which have prevented me from being pysically present in New York at the Security Council today.

The Council is meeting amid challenges that are testing Afghanistan's electoral, institutional and legal frameworks, together with the maturity of its political leaders. How the two presidential candidates, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah and Mr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, and the country's leadership manage those events and the current impasse will be vital to Afghanistan's unity and stability.

What keeps us hopeful in such challenging times is the very strong and encouraging statements of the Afghan people on the polling days of 5 April and 14 June. With pride and determination they turned out in support of a democratic political transition and an end to cycles of ruinous violence. The presidential and provincial council elections of 2014 are Afghan-held, Afghan-managed, Afghan-led and Afghan-secured. The electoral institutions are still maturing but the preparations for and conduct of the electoral cycle have been recognized by domestic and international observers as an improvement compared with the past. That is certainly not to suggest that there were not instances of fraud and irregularity.

At this time of the election impasse, the determination and sacrifice of the candidates, campaign workers, electoral personnel, security officials and voters must be at the forefront of the minds of Afghanistan's leaders. Millions of people came out to support each of the two candidates. Their votes and those wishes must be respected and protected. That the outcome of such an extraordinary effort is currently at an impasse makes it all the more disappointing and dangerous. It is the responsibility of the Afghan independent electoral management bodies and Afghan stakeholders, including, first and foremost, the candidates, to ensure the timely and orderly completion of the election process from which a legitimate leader emerges.

Soon after the second round of polling, citing institutional bias and substantial fraud, Mr. Abdullah chose to disengage from the electoral process. Accusations have centred around the high levels of turnout in some areas of the country, which Mr. Ghani's camp, in turn, put down to his team's mobilization efforts. The recent resignation of the Independent Election Commission's chief electoral officer was hoped to provide an opportunity for the resumption of the

process and, in particular, lead to discussions between the campaign teams and institutions on strengthening technical checks and balances where voting patterns are claimed to be unusual in increasing confidence in the credibility of the electoral process and the acceptability of its outcome.

The presidential candidates need to immediately engage with one another and the mandated electoral institutions in actively defining solutions to help the process move forward with improved quality and credibility. There is no political transition besides the elections to decide the country's legitimate leadership, accepted by the majority, and to protect its Constitution and the gains since the fall of the Taliban. Under the Council's mandate, the United Nations and I, myself, as Special Representative can and do provide good offices at the request of the Afghan authorities. We have received such requests recently.

I remain very clear, however, about the parameters of United Nations engagement. They are Afghan elections. We can facilitate Afghan parties reaching solutions. We can provide technical expertise to advise on the possibilies and modalities of strengthened checks and balances where there are questions about the process. What we cannot do is to prepare solutions and decide on behalf of the Afghans. That is the exclusive responsibility of Afghans. The United Nations efforts assist Afghan institutions and stakeholders. We cannot substitute for them or replace them.

Given the rising tensions following the second round, including increasing ethnic overtones, the utmost maturity and statesmanship are required, in particular by the two presidential candidates. Otherwise, the risk is a confrontation of the two condidates and their supporters, in which the losing side will reject the results and contest their legitimacy. That could lead to a protracted confrontation with the danger of a slide into violence. Afghanistan can ill afford the unpredictable impact on security, stability, the economy and the wider region. The candidates urgently need to cooperate with one another to prevent such scenarios, which, unfortunately, cannot be excluded for now.

In such times of tension, missteps, miscommunication, misunderstandings and the actions of a few radical people can have broader consequences. I appeal for calm among the supporters of both candidates amid sharpening, hateful rhetoric of an increasingly inflammatory tone that risks creating ethnic divisions. Most disturbingly, this includes rhetoric invoking memories of the fratricidal factional conflicts of the 1990s. All necessary steps need to be taken by the two leaders to avoid creating a slippery slope to civil disorder and instability.

The country's political class, and notably the two candidates Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Ghani, have a paramount responsibility to manage this situation. The wishes of the people for a timely conclusion of the leadership transition, in accordance with the country's laws, need to be respected. They must decisively and actively engage in finding solutions to end the current impasse and contribute to Afghanistan's forward momentum at this critical time. As with elections anywhere in the world, there can ultimately be only one winner. The need now is for statesmanship, not brinksmanship.

In challenging times, the predictability of international support is all the more critical. The upcoming sequence of high-level meetings is specifically seen as an opportunity to highlight and renew commitments with a new administration, including regional cooperation at the Heart of Asia/ Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference hosted by the People's Republic of China, ongoing international security assistance at the NATO Summit in Wales, and development priorities at the London Conference on Afghanistan. This will all depend on Afghanistan's political leaders and institutions breaking the electoral impasse and the completion of political transition in an orderly and timely manner.

Altogether, this reporting quarter has been both promising and challenging for Afghanistan. On the bright side is the people's participation and engagement in the election process. That was, however, dominated by economic downturn linked to a lack of confidence due to the current uncertainties; the activities of the insurgency and spoilers, including those linked to international terrorism and narcotics networks; the protracted electoral impasse; and deaths and displacement due to natural hazards and conflict. Just last week, an attempt was made on the life of the head of the High Peace Council secretariat, Masoom Stanekzai, an individual who has worked tirelessly for peace. Still the people of Afghanistan look towards a better future, and expect their leaders to work for it.

Finally, I would note that Afghanistan, together with the whole Umma, is preparing to observe the holy

month of Ramadan. I sincerely hope that the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, observed in a spirit of compassion, can in its own way through contemplation and prayers, help pave the way for a peaceful and prosperous future for a stable and united Afghanistan. To my respected colleague Ambassador Tanin, members of the Security Council and all peace-loving people, I address the traditional congratulations, *Ramadan Mubarak*.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. Kubiš for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: I welcome today's initiative of the Security Council to discuss Afghanistan, and I am pleased to be here to provide a briefing together with my dear colleague Ján Kubiš to the assessment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) of the current situation.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš was very clear about the risks and challenges facing the current election process in Afghanistan. The 2014 political and military transition is likely to create considerable political and security uncertainty, which must be addressed. At this crucial moment, Afghanistan needs continued international support. If its economic development declines and international aid is reduced, along with business confidence, the reliance on the illicit economy will further increase.

Over the past decade, drug cultivation and production have been the most profitable illicit and criminal business activities in Afghanistan. At UNODC, we estimate that the global opium market is worth some $68 billion, and 80 per cent of the world's opium and heroin is produced in Afghanistan. The narcotics trade may be worth between 10 to 15 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. In 2013, the area under poppy cultivation reached an historical high of 209,000 hectares. Opium production increased by 50 per cent, compared to 2012, rising to 5,500 tons.

Afghanistan remains at the centre of a multi-billion dollar illicit business that impacts on security, the rule of law, health and sustainable development. This is being driven not only by global consumption, but also by domestic speculation and corruption. The link between the lack of security and opium cultivation is also evident. 90 per cent of total opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan takes place in the southern and western provinces — the most insecure areas, where anti-Government elements and drug traders are extremely active. Money-laundering is hindering proper tax collection and creating an underresourced Government bereft of the financial means to confront illicit drugs. This is true on both the supply side and the demand side; the country has the highest rate of opium addiction in the world.

Unfortunately, these problems have not been concretely reflected in the Kabul and Tokyo processes. As a result, counter-narcotics efforts have not been given a high priority by national and international stakeholders. However, it would be unfair to say that nothing has been done to confront this challenge. Here are just a few facts and figures on the most recent developments.

Notwithstanding the election period and security concerns, the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan have continued with the eradication of opium crop in 12 provinces although the figure of 1,600 hectares eradicated from the beginning of the season to 2 June is down form previous years. In the period from January to December 2013, the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Police undertook 440 operations resulting in 383 arrests, dismantled two heroin laboratories, and seized 2.8 tons of opiates and 13.8 tons of precursor chemicals.

UNODC's role is to provide support and assistance to the relevant Afghan counter-narcotic authorities and to help them to do more. We are also building effective international cooperation and partnerships through such networks as the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries; the Triangular Initiative, which brings together Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan; and the Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative, while working closely with many regional organizations.

Ministerial review meetings have been held recently between the members of the AKT group and the Triangular Initiative, as well as the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme, to further strengthen cooperation in countering illicit drugs and in border management among countries of West and Central Asia. The Triangular Initiative, in particular, has already produced concrete results in terms of several tons of drugs seized; even more importantly, it has made it possible for those three countries to engage in constructive cooperation at the operational level.

UNODC is continuing to support law enforcement operations in the region through new initiatives, such

as the Criminal Assets Southern Hub, the Southern Trafficking Operational Plan and the Maritime Regional Security Initiative. Furthermore, UNODC is promoting drug control cooperation at the interregional level to assist countries in countering transnational organized crime and drug trafficking rings involved in the Afghan opiates trade.

In that context, we are supporting the linkages between counter-narcotics intelligence-sharing centres such as the Joint Planning Cell, under the Triangular Initiative, and other regional centres, including the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Gulf Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs, the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre and many others. To cement that process, last year UNODC launched its "networking the networks" initiative, which brings together regional centres to enhance criminal intelligence and to collaborate in operations along the main trafficking routes used for shipping drugs and precursors to and from Afghanistan.

Despite the work of the international community, much more needs to be done. Afghanistan needs a meaningful action plan that takes a long term development, peace and security approach — one that is coupled with an effective drug control effort that is able to balance its different components of supply and demand reduction and alternative development and that mainstreams action against drug lords and criminality into work promoting sustainable economic and social development. A more comprehensive approach is needed in three key areas.

First, there is a need to reduce the vulnerability of citizens to the illicit economy through improvements to the quality of their lives, including in the areas of health care, education and job creation. Of course, alternative development is an essential tool in those efforts that can help farmers to permanently move away from illicit crop farming. But that will succeed only if we also provide licit markets for substitution crops and improve upon existing infrastructure.

Secondly, we must remove the opportunities for criminals by focusing on good governance, the rule of law and anti-money laundering and anti-corruption activities. Those issues are a fundamental element of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. Nevertheless, there is still a great need to turn the text of the framework into concrete action so that we can eliminate corruption in Afghan society and its institutions and sever the flow of money from this crime.

Thirdly, we have to generate the political will that can introduce a long-term engagement that binds together the United Nations family as well as the relevant international and national stakeholders. The 2016 special session of the General Assembly could also help at the international level by reviewing the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, including in Afghanistan.

Allow me assure the Security Council that UNODC will continue to support Afghanistan in fighting drugs and crime and will further promote regional and interregional cooperation in an integrated and comprehensive response to illicit drugs.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. Fedotov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Afghanistan.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for briefing the council via video teleconference and for his leadership of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, especially at this very important juncture in my country's history. I thank him in particular for his continued commitment to Afghanistan throughout its transition. I also welcome the presence here today of Mr. Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. I am grateful to Australia, in particular to Ambassador Quinlan, for its continued leadership on Afghanistan in the Council. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General's recent report (S/2014/420) on the situation in Afghanistan.

This is a pivotal moment for Afghanistan. We are at the last stage of our country's historic presidential elections. The democratic transition is the cornerstone of the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned progression to peace, stability and prosperity.

The Presidential elections on 5 April and on 14 June generated an unprecedented surge of democratic spirit in Afghanistan. After decades of conflict, it is remarkable to witness my country emerging as a vibrant young democracy characterized by widespread engagement in the political process. That has been demonstrated by rallies attended by thousands, debates

that were broadcast and viewed throughout the country, media coverage and information exchange via phones, computers and television screens, and candidates' public outreach, not only in the capital but, significantly, country-wide.

In an exceptional show of faith in democracy, Afghans cast their ballots despite intimidation by the Taliban and other extremist and terrorist groups so that they could have a say in the country's political destiny. They dipped their fingers in ink, boldly asserting their right to choose a leader in defiance of threats to their lives and safety. In doing so they voted not only for a candidate but also for peace, for the advancement of the gains made in the past 12 years and for a better future.

They did so by the millions, in numbers that exceeded expectations in both the first and second rounds. All segments of the population participated, including women and all ethnic groups, in all provinces of the country, in the cities and in the rural areas and in the south, north, east and west.

Dozens of national institutions and thousands of citizens played a role in ensuring the administration, integrity and legitimacy of the first entirely Afghan-managed electoral process. Thousands of independent domestic and international observers and candidate monitors covered the polling stations and continue to oversee the entire electoral cycle.

We are grateful to the international community for standing with the Afghan people and for providing technical, financial and logistical resources to enable Afghan institutions to successfully hold elections. We appreciate the support of the United Nations, including the United Nations Development Programme, to national electoral institutions in their management of a peaceful democratic transition.

We note with pride the professionalism and competence exhibited by Afghan security institutions during the elections period. Their dedication allowed elections to take place despite serious security threats. Moreover, careful planning including through the training of hundreds of female police and more than 2,000 civilians and the recruitment of more than 13,000 female searchers, allowed for the active participation of diverse segments of the population on polling day.

We were deeply saddened by the tragic loss and injury of civilians, election personnel, observers and Afghan security forces who put their lives at risk to protect the future of the country. We deplore the attacks against the infrastructure of election institutions, including the central office of the Independent Election Commission in Kabul and even attacks on candidates and their supporters. However, the Afghan people's near-blanket defiance of extremist threats sends a strong message that the Taliban no longer have the ability to destabilize the country. Despite the tragic losses suffered during the elections, peace and democracy have clearly triumphed in Afghanistan.

We note the steps that have been taken by the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission to detect fraudulent votes and manage complaints in the first round, including through the blacklisting of electoral workers liable for infractions. Attempting to avoid potential crisis and protect the legitimacy of our historic elections, the election bodies are again managing issues raised with regard to the electoral process in the second round. Their efforts aim to ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process and uphold constitutional and electoral law.

We appreciate the readiness of the United Nations to stand up for the interests of the Afghan people by supporting the integrity of the Afghan-led, Afghan-managed electoral process, which will lead to the establishment of a new Government that legitimately reflects the will of the Afghan people. We see United Nations support of the Afghan process as a positive step towards addressing the political concerns of the second round.

As Afghanistan makes the transition for the first time from one democratically elected president to the next, we continue to focus on the steps necessary for the country to move decisively towards full ownership and leadership in the transformation decade. Afghan security institutions are assuming full responsibility throughout the country as combat operations by the international forces near their conclusion. The future elected President of Afghanistan will continue to make a constructive relationship with our international partners a priority, starting by signing a bilateral security agreement with the United States and followed by the finalization of the agreement on NATO's training, advising and assistance role in post-2014 Afghanistan. In that regard, we look forward to the upcoming NATO summit in Cardiff on 4 September.

The country's progress towards sustainability and self-sufficiency depends upon the ability of Afghan institutions to perform key governance and

service-delivery functions and promote economic development. That will require the continued support and assistance of the international community, as set out in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework adopted in Tokyo in 2012. We welcome the next ministerial meeting under the Framework, to be held in London in November 2014, as a forum for renewing and reinvigorating the mutual commitments necessary for Afghanistan's long-term prosperity.

As Afghanistan moves towards a new beginning, the interlinked challenges of achieving security, peace, good governance and development will continue to loom large. We were reminded of long-term challenges to development last month by the devastating floods in Badakhshan province. In addition, we recognize that illegal drugs and narcotics continue to undercut our legitimate development path. For that reason, we will continue to implement our National Drug Control Strategy and call on our regional and international partners to focus on solutions that reduce demand and combat regional and global illicit networks.

Understanding that terrorism and extremism continue to be the greatest impediment to development in Afghanistan and the region, we will continue to focus on peace and reconciliation efforts with the Taliban and on other measures, including the Anti-Money Laundering law recently passed by the upper house of the Afghan National Parliament. The active role of all citizens — women, men and children — will be vital for overcoming our shared challenges in that regard.

Regional engagement will continue to be critical to the peace, stability and success of the transformation decade. We believe that it is important to build upon the achievements of the last decade to solidify and expand a workable framework of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with our neighbours and the wider region and to strengthen relations with the Islamic world. To that end, we look forward to the upcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference to be held in Tianjin, China, on 29 August.

As Afghanistan expands its multifaceted cooperation with our regional partners, we expect our neighbours to continue to work towards regional stability. The recent operation of Pakistani forces in North Waziristan, which led to the displacement of thousands of families to Afghanistan's Khost province and the associated loss of life, is a serious source of concern for the Government of Afghanistan. We urge the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to give high priority to the greater security of Afghanistan and the region at this crucial time.

The Afghan Government is committed to a swift and successful conclusion of the electoral process. Preparations are well under way for the first ever democratic and peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan. All Government institutions have commenced their transition planning, and an interministerial committee has been assigned to prepare for the official inauguration of our incoming president. We look forward to welcoming the dignitaries of all our international and regional partners to that occasion.

When we do so, we will remember that Afghanistan and our international partners have made tremendous sacrifices to ensure that war remains a relic of the past. It is essential that the country not return to the days when bullets rather than ballots decided the country's political fate. In post-Taliban Afghanistan, no tenet has been more cherished than the idea that stability and legitimacy are a profound necessity. That principle has motivated considerable investment in terms of dollars spent and lives lost, and its curtailment would carry damaging consequences for the country and its people. It is our fundamental responsibility to ensure that peace and democracy are secure in Afghanistan today, tomorrow and throughout the transformation decade.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now give the floor to members of the Security Council.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank Special Representative Ján Kubiš for his briefing and commend him and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for critical support for Afghanistan's presidential election. I also thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Yury Fedotov, for his briefing, and Ambassador Tanin, as always, for his able engagement in the Council's work on Afghanistan.

The conclusion of voting in the Afghan presidential elections was a vital stage in Afghanistan's transition. The Afghan people themselves defied attempts by armed insurgent groups to disrupt the process and have spoken decisively in favour of democracy. We applaud their courage and their commitment to a peaceful Afghanistan. The strong participation of women reflects the progress Afghanistan has made over the last 10 years. Afghanistan's future will depend on the full and decisive role women have in its political, economic and civic evolution.

Today, the Security Council will adopt a presidential statement on Afghanistan's elections. That will send a strong message of the international community's support for Afghanistan's electoral process and will recognize the importance of those historic elections for Afghanistan's transition and democratic development. We recognize the outstanding work of UNAMA in assisting Afghan institutions in their management of the process. The partnership between the United Nations and the Government of Afghanistan has been crucial in successfully managing the many administrative and logistical challenges of conducting the poll.

We are now at a critical point in the electoral process. We recognize the importance of the Afghan electoral institutions, including the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission, in ensuring a transparent, open and credible result, and we call on all parties to engage with the electoral institutions and processes patiently and to channel their complaints through the institutional mechanisms established by Afghanistan's electoral laws and Constitution. The performance of Afghanistan's election institutions and processes is integral to the credibility of the elections themselves.

The months ahead will be crucial. Beyond the elections, we look forward to the historic milestone of a peaceful, democratic transfer of leadership in Afghanistan. Australia is ready, with our partners, to work with the new Government to finalize the parameters for the international community's support for Afghanistan beyond 2014.

The Afghan National Security Forces have demonstrated their increasing capability in fighting the insurgency and providing security for the Afghan people, including, vitally, throughout the election process itself. The Afghan National Security Forces must continue to build their capabilities across Afghanistan. Australia will continue to support the Afghan National Security Forces, including through our sustainment commitment of $100 million a year, as agreed in Chicago in 2012. We look forward to concluding the legal frameworks necessary to enable a post-2014 international mission to train, advise and assist.

It will be essential for the new Government to implement the commitments made at the 2012 Tokyo conference towards achieving sustainable economic and social development. The people of Afghanistan will expect to see improvements to governance and the rule of law, including in the areas of transitional justice, budget management, combating corruption and improving accountability.

We encourage Afghan authorities to provide full support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission so that it can fulfil its necessary role as an effective and independent institution. Australia urges the full implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to finalize and implement a national action plan on women and peace and security that would promote the active participation of women in the peace and reconciliation process. We welcome Afghanistan's report on the implementation of its children and armed conflict plan and emphasize the need for its full implementation.

We are concerned with the reported increase in civilian casualties in Afghanistan, the vast majority of which are attributed to the Taliban. The Secretary-General's report (S/2014/420) notes that improvised explosive devices (IEDs) remain the main cause of civilian casualties. We are concerned by the growing use and sophistication of IEDs and the terrible toll they take, particularly on civilians. The Council has already taken steps to address that trend in resolution 2160 (2014), adopted last week, on the new mandate of the Taliban sanctions regime, which imposes a new obligation on States to promote vigilance in industries involved in the production, trade and storage of explosives or the raw materials and components that can be used to manufacture IEDs, such as chemical components and detonating cord.

It is essential that Member States engage in establishing good practices, including with industry, and share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter the use of improvised explosive devices. Crucially, we must not lose sight of Afghanistan's significant humanitarian challenges, including significant displacement as a result of conflict and recent natural disasters.

Today, the Council will also adopt a presidential statement on narcotics, which is an issue of great concern to many countries, including my own. We thank UNODC for its continued efforts to build the capacity of Afghan authorities to counter the very serious narcotics threat. That role will remain important.

To conclude, Afghanistan stands at the threshold of transformation. Its people have voted peacefully for change, respecting and trusting the democratic process

to bring them greater peace and security. We can ensure them that the United Nations, the international community and certainly my own country, Australia, will continue to support them and the Government of Afghanistan as they work to achieve the stability and legitimacy that Ambassador Tanin has just so sharply identified as the motivating principles behind the commitment of Afghanistan's people to their own future.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Mr. Ján Kubiš, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Yury Fedotov. We also welcome the detailed statement by Ambassador Zahir Tanin.

We welcome the holding of the presidential and provincial council elections on 5 April and the second round of polling in the run-off between Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai on 14 June. We note the Government's efforts to promote and strengthen female participation, either as candidates, voters or observers and applaud the 36 per cent participation rate by women in the 5 April elections.

A legitimate political transition based on a result that is accepted by candidates and voters is essential for the stability of Afghanistan. We once again stress the need for the process to be credible, transparent, inclusive and in full compliance with the legal and constitutional framework set out by the country's own National Assembly. We also highlight the important work of the Independent Election Commission and UNAMA to verify that that is the case.

Progress on human rights, especially the rights of women and girls, is a decisive factor in the country's stability. It is important that resolution 1325 (2000) continue to be implemented at all levels to ensure women's participation in decision-making and that their needs are adequately met. In that vein, including women in the police and security forces is important and should continue to be a priority task for the new authorities. It is equally crucial that the new Government ensure the full implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women in order to end impunity for those who commit violence against Afghan women.

The increasing number of civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan caused by the use of improvised explosive devices shows there are still serious security problems in the country. The number of events and victims is at the worst levels since 2011. Given that, we firmly support the new provisions on such explosive devices contained in resolution 2160 (2014), adopted by the Council on 17 June, which are aimed at reducing their production, propagation and use.

In addition, together with Mr. Yury Fedotov, we are alarmed by the increase in drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan, where last year a new record was set in the production of opium. We reiterate the need for a comprehensive and international approach in the fight against drug trafficking that includes actors involved in security, development and humanitarian issues.

We deplore the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the north as a result of the heavy seasonal rains and extend our solidarity to Ambassador Tanin with respect to the resulting significant loss of life. In the context of a conflict that has spanned decades, ongoing vulnerability to natural disasters, the situation of internally displaced persons and food insecurity are major humanitarian challenges that need to be addressed in a coordinated manner by the newly elected authorities and the international community. That will not be possible without ensuring the full, prompt and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel.

We are concerned that terrorism in its various forms and manifestations has increased with the elections, and we condemn the attack on presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah on 7 June. With the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force at the end of 2014, my country believes it will be necessary to continue building the capacities of the Afghan National Security Forces in order to address the emerging threats and challenges. That will require greater resolve with regard to the current uncertainties that prevail in Afghanistan.

A specific example in that regard is the bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and the United States of America. Both presidential candidates have committed to subscribing to that agreement, if elected. It is also important that the new Government establish stronger regional cooperation networks through multilateral processes, such as the Istanbul process and the Toyko Conference. Regional cooperation is also essential for peace and reconciliation, as are the contacts with the Taliban and other groups that continue

to fight the Government. It is essential that the next Government has the necessary stability to carry out an orderly transition.

In conclusion, I should like to express Chile's support for the efforts of the Afghan people in building a democratic State with the rule of law and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. That is vital both for the stability and development of Afghanistan as for the stability of the entire region.

Mr. Manzi (Rwanda): At the outset, let me thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, for their respective briefings. I also thank Afghan Ambassador Zahir Tanin for his statement.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the leadership and the entire team of UNAMA for the important and vital role they played in the recently concluded elections in Afghanistan. UNAMA has made a remarkable contribution in accompanying Afghanistan on its road to State-building and socioeconomic stability. With the elections in Afghanistan marking the first Afghan transition from one democratically elected President to another, we congratulate the Afghans and their partners on achieving this milestone. The enthusiastic voter participation in two rounds of votes held on 5 April and 14 June demonstrated the strong need of the Afghan people for a democratic process. We are fully aware that many Afghans are eagerly awaiting the election results at the end of the election process so that normal life can resume in their country, given how long it has taken.

As we await the announcement of the official results, scheduled on 22 July, it is important that voters and candidates exercise maximum patience and respect for the electoral process and mandate of the authorities. We appeal to the candidates and their supporters to refrain from inciting violence, as the country is still in a state of fragility. We also stress that whoever wins must be aware that an inclusive governance of the country's diversity is vital to the long-term stability of Afghanistan in promoting reconciliation and national unity.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains volatile. With an increase of 22 per cent in security-related incidents, compared to the same period last year, Rwanda commends the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) for the consistent progress they have made in ensuring national security. They have proved their growing capability to respond to security challenges, and we specifically commend their efforts during the election period. We know that by the end of the year, the ANSF will have full responsibility for the security of Afghanistan as the International Security Assistance Force draws down. It is therefore important that the international community continue to support and enhance the capability of the Afghan National Security Force.

National reconciliation is also at an unavoidable crossroads on the path towards the lasting stabilization of the country. Rwanda supports an inclusive and peaceful initiative, and recognizes the importance of the process being Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. In that regard, the contribution of regional actors to achieving sustainable peace and stability, including by supporting the inter-Afghan dialogue, is of paramount importance. The strong support of UNAMA for the High Peace Council in confidence- and trust-building has also been indispensable.

We underscore the importance of the general mutual commitment made at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan of July 2012 as an indispensable tool for guiding cooperation between Afghanistan and its development partners. The implementation of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework is fundamental to the long-term stability and future success of Afghanistan. We encourage the Afghan authorities to honour their commitments in the areas of promoting good governance, implementing the necessary reforms, fighting corruption and protecting human rights. On that note, we recognize the significant progress that has been made in the process.

Narcotics remain a key problem in Afghanistan and beyond. They are a threat to international peace and security. Continued efforts to suppress drug trafficking would enable the Council to effectively fight against drug-financed terrorism and criminality. No concrete results have been attained to date, due to lack of serious joint efforts on the part of all the stakeholders in the region to curtail its production.

We welcome the draft presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/12) on drug trafficking that the Security Council shall adopt shortly, which fully expresses the position of the Council on the issue and supports the existing regional, interregional and international

mechanisms in the fight against illicit drugs. We hope that it will contribute to the fight against the scourge of illicit drugs.

In conclusion, let me say that Afghanistan institutions have a great role to play in ensuring that their transition is successful, that the progress made is self-guided and forms the basis for Afghanistan's future peace, security, growth and development. We will continue to advocate that UNAMA, the United Nations system as a whole and the international community continue to accompany Afghans towards their aspirations.

Mrs. Kazragienė (Lithuania): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ján Kubiš and Executive Director Fedotov of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for their briefings.

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States.

The 2014 presidential election was an historic moment for Afghanistan, its transition and democratic development. We pay tribute to the people of Afghanistan for their courage in casting their ballots despite threats and attacks by the Taliban and other extremist and terrorist groups. The people of Afghanistan have proven that votes, not violence, count. In particular, we commend Afghan women for their determination, in the face persistent stigmatization, to have their rightful say in the election and to engage more actively in the country's political life. Among the teams of candidates in the first round, three included female vice-presidential candidates. It is encouraging that there were almost 300 women among Provincial Council aspirants and that, according to the preliminary results, 97 of them are winners.

It is critical that the will of the people be reflected. The work of the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission will be important in the days ahead. We urge the remaining candidates to engage constructively with the electoral institutions and refrain from any acts that could incite violence or civil disorder or that could lead to instability. Once complaints have been considered in accordance with the law, we urge them to accept the outcome.

We welcome the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and its engagement with the Afghan authorities and people during the run-up to the elections and while they were being held. The EU and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe deployed their election observation teams. We urge the Afghan leadership to make full use of their observations for future elections.

We commend the efforts of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in ensuring security during the elections, which demonstrated its growing ability to carry out large-scale security operations and provide effective country-wide security. I want particularly to underline the ANSF's role in protecting women and providing a favourable environment for their participation in the elections.

However, the security situation remains a source of concern and a challenge for the new leadership of Afghanistan. Civilians continue to be caught in fighting between the Government and the armed opposition. We are especially worried about the increase in civilian causalities, which include women and children. Once again, explosive weapons have been the leading cause of civilian casualties, with improvised explosive devices standing out as weapons of particular concern. During the past three months, more than 100 children have been killed or wounded as they stumbled upon ordnance, which is often poorly marked. We also note with concern the growing number of incidents in the east of the country carried out by a range of Al-Qaida affiliates working parallel to the Taliban.

International assistance in support of the Afghan army and police will remain essential during and beyond the transition period. We reiterate our support for the transition and look forward to the swift conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement by the country's new leadership. Lithuania has pledged to contribute in support of the ANSF after 2014.

We also note that only scant progress has been achieved in the dialogue between the Government and the armed opposition. Those efforts need to continue, including on the local level, where they are most effective. We welcome UNAMA's engagement in facilitating local dialogue and peace initiatives, including through community efforts in Nuristan and by launching the latest report of the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace.

A stable, secure, economically sustainable Afghanistan can be built only based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions and the implementation of citizens' rights. Progress in the Afghan human rights situation, however, remains

limited. We are especially concerned that children's rights continue to be gravely violated, as reported by the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict. We express our grave concern that schools continue to be attacked by parties to the conflict, teachers continue to be threatened and more than 100,000 children continue to be deprived of their right to education. We call upon the Afghan authorities to endorse a road map to enhance the implementation of the children in armed conflict action plan.

We welcome the reinstatement of provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code that enable women to testify against relatives. We also welcome the measures taken for tracking enforcement of the law on the elimination of violence against women, and for tracking civilian casualties disaggregated by gender. However, further efforts are required to promote and advance human rights. UNAMA has an important further role to play in that regard. The independence and effectiveness of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission should be ensured.

Regional cooperation is essential for developing a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, since today's challenges know no borders. We are heartened by the support and determination of the States in the region, including through the Istanbul Heart of Asia Process. Afghanistan's grave economic situation, illicit economy and the issue of combating drug trafficking will all continue to require urgent attention.

Finally, given the multitude of challenges, UNAMA will remain an essential partner of the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring the success of the transformation process, maintaining the progress that has been made and supporting much needed reforms. Afghanistan has Lithuania's full support in its further efforts.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): I also thank Special Representatieve of the Secretary-General Ján Kubiš and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov, for their briefings. And I acknowledge the presence of the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Zahir Tanin, and thank him for his statement.

My comments will focus on three aspects of the situation in Afghanistan: political developments, humanitarian issues and counter-narcotics efforts.

On political developments, we note with satisfaction that, despite the Taliban's threats to launch a campaign of violence to disrupt the recent elections, millions of voters turned out to cast their ballots. According to the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/420), a series of televised debates between the presidential candidates and local mobilization around the provisional council elections contributed to civic awareness and a high voter turnout. That is a clear indication that the people of Afghanistan have embraced democracy. We congratulate them on the success of the elections and look forward to the announcement of the final results next month. In the meantime, we urge the candidates to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and other acts that could endanger the national security of Afghanistan.

In terms of gender and women's empowerment, we are pleased to note that all the campaign platforms addressed women's issues. Three teams had women as vice-presidential candidates and 296 of the 2,591 candidates to provincial council elections were women. In order to encourage the participation of women in voting, the Government trained 581 female police and 2,245 women in addition to recruiting 13,690 female searchers for the elections. Women also have a legally mandated 20 per cent of the seats in the provisional councils across the country. Of the 362,780 party and candidate agents registered for the first round of the elections, 23 per cent were women. Viewed against the recent history of women's limited participation in Afghan politics, that level of involvement in politics by Afghan women is highly significant. It shows the extent to which women have been empowered in Afghanistan. We would like to acknowledge the support of the United Nations to the electoral process in Afghanistan through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations electoral support project.

On humanitarian issues, we take positive note of the approval by the Internally Displaced Persons Task Force of a road map for the implementation of a national policy on internally displaced persons (IDPs). We hope that this will enhance the management of the IDP problem in Afghanistan. We are concerned, however, by the constraints that are hampering humanitarian access. Those include attacks against personnel, assets and facilities. Some of those attacks have resulted in the deaths of humanitarian personnel. We pay tribute to the members of the humanitarian community working across Afghanistan under challenging circumstances.

On counter-narcotics, we commend the Afghan authorities for their efforts in fighting drugs production and trafficking. The eradication of 1,473 hectares of opium poppy is a significant achievement in the Government's war on drugs. Since criminal gangs and terrorist groups are known to fund their activities through drug production and trafficking, the efforts of the Afghan Government in fighting those crimes would deny them a source of funds and, it is hoped, reduce their capacity to organize.

Still on counter-narcotics, we understand that there is almost always a regional dimension to drug trafficking. That makes international cooperation an essential part of an overall strategy of drug-law enforcement. In that regard, Nigeria welcomes the progress made within the framework of the regional programme for Afghanistan and countries in the region in the areas of law enforcement, criminal justice, demand reduction and research advocacy.

We also take positive note of the progress achieved under the regional cooperation frameworks, including the Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Initiative and the Triangular Initiative, involving Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The positive outcomes of those initiatives include enhanced cooperation in drug control, border management and law enforcement. We encourage the Afghan authorities to strengthen counter-narcotics cooperation with their neighbours to consolidate the gains made in the war on drugs.

I wish to conclude by commending Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš for his leadership and commitment to attaining his mandate. Our commendation also goes to the staff of UNAMA for their hard work in challenging circumstances. Our wish is to see a peaceful, prosperous, stable and democratic Afghanistan.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš for his informative briefing. I also thank him and his entire team at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for their steadfast and professional work supporting the Afghan people and their Government at this critically important juncture.

I welcome Executive Director Fedotov of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the Council today, and thank him very much for his briefing.

Once again, I thank Ambassador Tanin for his presence and for his remarks.

We are meeting at an historic time for Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans have gone out to vote not once, but twice, in recent months, in an election that will eventually determine the first democratic transfer of power the country has ever seen. It has been an act of immense courage on the part of Afghan voters, who braved real threats to assert their most basic democratic right. And, I would argue, there are reasons to be optimistic beyond the ink on millions of people's fingers. Many of the Afghan institutions that have developed over the past decade played a key role in the electoral process. Presidential candidates engaged in vigorous televised debates that raised public awareness of their positions. Their campaigns were covered by a maturing and independent national press. Nearly 70 Afghan organizations fielded more than 18,000 observers to increase transparency, and Afghan security forces provided security throughout the process.

Perhaps no one has seen a bigger change than Afghanistan's women. Under Taliban rule, Afghan women were completely excluded from public life. This year, more than 2.5 million women cast ballots in the first round of voting. But that is not all. Female election observers monitored polling stations and women ran for and won seats on provincial councils. The Afghan people can be proud of that progress.

Even as we recognize steps forward, we are mindful of the challenges that remain. One of those challenges is evaluating allegations of electoral fraud. To that end, we urge both candidates to remain engaged with Afghanistan's electoral institutions — the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission — and to present them with any evidence of fraud. We call on those institutions to ensure that all allegations they receive are given prompt, thorough and impartial review and adjudication, and we call on all stakeholders to refrain from violence and to condemn violent acts if and when they occur. Further, we believe that UNAMA can play a critically important role in facilitating that process and in maintaining the dialogue between the candidates and the Afghan electoral bodies.

Without regard to which candidate emerges victorious, the United States is committed to working with the next President of Afghanistan in order to help the Afghan people build a more stable, peaceful and prosperous country. That is why President Obama announced last month that we are ready to keep approximately 9,800 United States service members

in Afghanistan at the start of 2015. Those troops will help to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces as part of the NATO Resolute Support mission and pursue the remnants of Al-Qaida. That support depends on the conclusion of the bilateral security agreement that both Afghan candidates have committed to signing.

International assistance will remain vital to ensuring Afghanistan's future stability. The Afghan people can be confident that the United States will do its part to provide long-term, multifaceted support. That will include financial assistance for sustaining and professionalizing the Afghan National Security Forces, humanitarian aid to tackle endemic problems such as the country's massive displaced population, and key investments in Afghan institutional and economic development. That support will be critical to shoring up the gains made over the past decade.

Afghanistan will also need the help of its neighbours. Just as a more stable Afghanistan is essential to security in the region, so is the region's enduring engagement in building peace and stability in Afghanistan. It is important that regional partners continue to promote Afghanistan's development through initiatives such as the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan. In that regard, we recognize China's leadership in hosting the forthcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in August.

Afghanistan's progress will also depend on continuing international support for a robust UNAMA mission so that the United Nations can continue to work on crucial issues ranging from coordinating humanitarian aid to fostering regional diplomacy, and from monitoring human rights practices to supporting the development of key institutions such as the justice system. We look forward to discussing the future of that mission with the new Afghan Government and with Security Council colleagues.

Let me be clear — outside support alone cannot guarantee that Afghanistan will realize its full potential. Ultimately, the hardest choices about the country's future will fall on the shoulders of its leaders, who will need to build upon the important gains made over the past decade. As the bravery and determination of the Afghan people in the recent election have shown, Afghans are willing to take great risks in order to build a more stable, peaceful and prosperous country. We must continue to support them.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Ján Kubiš, for his briefing and for his work as Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). I also thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Yury Fedotov, and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, for their statements.

I associate myself with the statement to be delivered later by the observer of the European Union.

When men and women act with courage, there will always be other men and women who will walk in their footsteps. On 5 April and 14 June, braving considerable risks, Afghan men and women chose the path to the polls, and millions followed them. Despite intimidation, threats and even violence, the Afghan people showed their determination to take control of their future and their destiny, by choosing the path of peace and democracy. Their courage and determination compel admiration and deserve praise, as do the actions of the Afghan security forces, who were able to ensure the security of the ballot despite attempts to disrupt the conduct of the voting through violence.

Today it is crucial that the Afghan voters see their courage rewarded and their hopes for these elections not disappointed. We therefore appeal to the sense of responsibility of everyone involved — the candidates, who should cooperate with the institutions in charge of the electoral process and respect their authority, and the institutions themselves, which should fulfil their tasks transparently and efficiently. If disputes arise, they should be dealt with within the legal framework provided for the purpose, not through the media or by intimidation or violence.

On 22 July, when the electoral process is complete and the final results are declared, there will be a winner and a loser. But the whole of Afghanistan will emerge a winner if the defeated candidate chooses to concede defeat with dignity, adding to the legitimacy of the elected President. And the entire Afghan people will be victorious if the elected candidate chooses to form an inclusive Government that represents Afghanistan's diversity. It is only then that these elections will have contributed to creating the conditions required for Afghanistan to progress along the road to stability, democracy and peace.

It is essential that the electoral process be brought to a successful conclusion. But there must be advances in other areas too in order to consolidate the progress Afghanistan has made in the past decade, starting with human and women's rights. We hope the future Head of State will allocate significant spots in his Government to women and seriously promote their active participation in the peace and reconciliation process. We also hope the new executive branch will ensure the full implementation of the law on violence against women. The level of women's participation in the 2015 parliamentary elections will be a good measure of the evolution of their place in public life.

On the issue of children in armed conflict, we are pleased that the Afghan Government has presented its third report to the United Nations on its implementation of the action plan on the recruitment and use of children in its national security forces. We have no doubt that the Government will very soon adopt the road map developed jointly with the United Nations aimed at speeding up the action plan's implementation. We are grateful that the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/420) includes information on all the violations and abuses committed against children in Afghanistan as well as on the implementation of the action plan. We thank the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for its well-produced brochure on the protection of Afghan children in armed conflict. We urge that it be distributed as widely as possible.

The continued increase in the number of civilian casualties in the conflict is a matter for serious concern. We firmly condemn the indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations, which show that one of the chief challenges to be tackled is that of security in general and the protection of civilians in particular. Regarding security, many members of the international community, including Luxembourg, have expressed their willingness to remain engaged with the Afghan people and security forces after 2014. For that, it is essential to clear up any legal uncertainty surrounding future international missions in support of the Afghan security forces. In so doing, Afghanistan will send a strong signal to its partners about the firmness of its commitment. We commend the Permanent Representative's remarks this morning in that regard.

The resurgence of drug trafficking and the cultivation of opiates in Afghanistan is another cause for deep concern. This serious and complex problem should be tackled head on, not just for the obvious public health reasons but also because there are often links between the forces of insurgency and drug-related activities. Meeting this challenge will require the commitment of everyone, primarily in Afghanistan but also at the regional level and in the international community. For its part, Luxembourg welcomes every initiative aimed at promoting synergies between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNAMA.

This is also the moment to recall that the drug issue cannot be separated from the development of the Afghan economy in general. If opium cultivation is gaining ground, that is due partly to the lack of economic alternatives. One of the new Government's priorities should unquestionably be to take measures to promote growth and create jobs. This is also where the mutual accountability commitments made at the Tokyo Conference should come into the picture. Maintaining international financial support should go hand in hand with a commitment on the part of the Afghan Government to economic reforms, the rule of law, development-oriented governance and the fight against corruption.

In conclusion, I would like to express our appreciation to the staff of UNAMA for the outstanding work they do in a dangerous and difficult environment. At this crucial time, it is important that it has the means to maintain a presence in the provinces as close to the Afghan people as possible.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, for his briefing, as well as the personnel of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their dedication under dangerous conditions. I would also like to thank Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for his briefing, and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement earlier.

Through their courageous participation in historic elections, the Afghan people have expressed their commitment to the political process, their rejection of violence and their resolve to work steadily to advance the process of democracy. In that regard, Jordan would like to commend the people's broad participation in the first round of voting despite terrorist threats. We also applaud participants' political commitment to the elections and the respect shown for the electoral institutions, whose work must continue in transparency,

integrity and effectiveness in order to build voters' and candidates' confidence in the electoral process. And we salute the work of the Afghan authorities and security forces in protecting voters, particularly women, as they fulfilled their legitimate aspirations to elect their representatives and President in justice, safety and freedom. We call on the two presidential candidates to put the interests of Afghanistan and its people first and to do their best to end the stalemate so that the new President will be able to take on his responsibilities as soon as possible.

Although the process taking place in Afghanistan is cause for optimism, we must also be realistic in assessing the challenges facing the future Afghan President in the electoral process and beyond. The security situation remains difficult. The Afghan National Security Forces and civilians still suffer terrorist attacks, which we strongly condemn.

The international community must acknowledge that without robust, sustained and significant support for Afghanistan throughout the transition process and beyond the authorities will face problems in overcoming the many interlinked economic, political and security challenges. We agree with the Secretary-General that the Afghan people should not feel that they have been abandoned. We also join his appeal for States to meet their obligations to provide development assistance and security despite the military drawdown in Afghanistan. It is necessary to adapt the role of the United Nations in line with the changes on the ground in the upcoming period in order for the Organization to be able to provide international assistance to the Afghan people.

The Afghan Government itself must continue to ensure economic and political reform, the rule of law and good governance, including combating corruption, so that radical forces do not invoke popular justification for their action. All political forces in Afghanistan must work together in accordance with the constitutional framework to achieve national unity.

Afghanistan's security affects and is influenced by its regional neighbourhood. That makes it necessary to foster bilateral relations between Afghanistan and regional States and to achieve regional cooperation and direct security and political outreach, as well as a proper follow-up of the outcomes of the relevant processes and conferences. Regional cooperation on the ground is crucial to dealing with the illicit cultivation and trafficking of narcotic drugs, which threaten the socioeconomic future of Afghanistan and are a threat to international peace and security.

In that regard, Jordan welcomes the regional initiatives on drugs control, border management and enhanced cooperation between judicial and law enforcement bodies. We commend the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to combat drug trafficking and call on it not to let up its resolve to address that scourge. Jordan underscores the important role of the United Nations and of UNODC and the need for the Security Council to remain seized of the developments in that regard.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our thanks to the President of the Security Council for this month, the Russian Federation, for the draft presidential statement, which demonstrates the need for the unity of the international community in combating the scourge of narcotic drugs.

Ms. Paik Ji-ah (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to thank Special Representative Ján Kubiš and Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for their briefings. I also thank Ambassador Tanin for his remarks.

Having held its run-off presidential elections, Afghanistan is at a critical juncture in its political transition. We recognize the high turnout in Afghanistan's presidential elections despite threats by the Taliban and other terrorist groups. The Afghan-led efforts for the electoral process, including those of the Afghan electoral institutions and Afghan National Security Forces, are also commendable. As a contributor to the project of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure women security officers in polling centres, we particularly praise the courage of the Afghan women who cast their ballots in the elections.

Despite those laudable efforts, it is imperative that the transparency and integrity of the entire electoral process be ensured. In the final stage of the run-off presidential elections, all stakeholders, including the candidates and their supporters, should refrain from any acts of incitement, violence or disorder. The electoral institutions and processes established in line with Afghanistan's laws and Constitution must be respected. Any complaints about the electoral process should be addressed through institutional mechanisms and procedures.

With regard to Afghanistan's security situation, we are deeply concerned about the increase in civilian casualties as compared with the same period in the year 2013. We strongly condemn the indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including through improvised explosive devices, and those aimed at disrupting the electoral process. Furthermore, the ongoing grave violations of children's rights, such as the killing of children, as well as attacks against schools and educational personnel, are a matter of grave concern to us.

On the narcotics issue in Afghanistan, we note the devastating effects that opium production and consumption have on the stability and development of Afghanistan. A comprehensive and coordinated response is essential in order to address that chronic issue, as it is linked to terrorism, transnational organized crime and money-laundering. We recognize the narcotic drugs control strategy of Afghanistan and the regional cooperation in the area of drugs control. We also appreciate the important role of UNODC in tackling that issue, including the publication of the annual *World Drug Report*. We call on the international community to further support Afghan-led efforts to that end as well.

Finally, in the light of the drawdown of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan, it is important for the international community to keep its commitments to supporting the country. The NATO Summit in south Wales in September and the first ministerial review of progress on the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, to be held in London later this year, will be important opportunities to reaffirm those commitments. The Afghan Government should also redouble its efforts for good governance, including its fight against corruption in the illicit economy.

The Afghan people demonstrated their aspiration for a democratic political transition during the electoral process. We support the peaceful and smooth transition in Afghanistan and look forward to the key role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the sustained contribution of the international community in that regard.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Special Representative Kubiš and Executive Director Fedotov for their briefings. China also listened carefully to the statement of Permanent Representative Tanin of Afghanistan.

At present, the situation in Afghanistan is at a critical turning point. China welcomes the holding of the presidential election in Afghanistan in April and commends the Afghan people for their active participation in it. The high voter turnout fully demonstrated the Afghan people's confidence in a stable political transition. We hope that the presidential election will be a new starting point for Afghanistan towards unity and stability. China acknowledges the efforts of the Afghan Government and the relevant institutions in the election.

We have noted the recent turn of events with respect to the counting of ballots for the second round of presidential elections. We hope that the parties concerned will resolve the pertinent issues appropriately through dialogue. China will respect the choice of the Afghan people. We are confident that a stable and smooth conclusion of the election process will help Afghanistan to embark on the track of peace, stability and development at an early date.

The realization of the rebuilding of peace and durable security in Afghanistan is primarily contingent on the efforts of the Government and the people of Afghanistan, with the vigorous support of the international community. On the basis of full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, the international community should support the Afghan-led and Afghan-managed process and assist Afghans in their efforts to overcome various challenges encountered in transition and transformation so that they can realize national security and stability sooner.

China is deeply concerned about the unabated civilian casualties as a result of terrorist and violent attacks in Afghanistan. The relevant parties should effectively support the Afghan National Security Forces in assuming their security responsibilities and assist Afghanistan in strengthening its troop and police capacity. We urge the international community to play a positive and constructive role in Afghanistan's realization of a broadbased national reconciliation and support Afghanistan's High Peace Council in its efforts to press for national reconciliation.

The continued enhancement of Afghanistan's capacities in economic development is an important basis for its durable security and stability. We hope that the Afghan Government will continue to push for economic and social development, continuously improve

people's livelihoods and enable the entire population to enjoy the dividends of development in all areas and gradually eradicate the security threats of terrorism, drug cultivation and trafficking, and transnational organized crimes. The international community should effectively honour its relevant commitments and strengthen its support for Afghanistan towards the realization of economic development and social progress.

The United Nations, regional organizations and relevant initiatives have played an important role in helping Afghanistan and its region achieve security, stability and development. We support the United Nations in its continued central and coordinating role to help Afghanistan smoothly complete its transition and transformation. We hope that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan will strengthen its communication and cooperation with the Afghan Government and play its positive role in supporting the Afghan efforts for peace, stability and national rebuilding.

Afghanistan is a good and friendly neighbour of China. China hopes to see a unified, stable, developed and friendly Afghanistan. China resolutely supports Afghanistan in its efforts to maintain national sovereignty and territorial integrity. As an active supporter, participant and facilitator of Afghan peace and rebuilding, China has, over a long period of time, been providing Afghanistan with large amounts of economic and social development assistance, helping build hospitals, schools, roads and other infrastructure. In addition, China actively participates in the regional cooperation on Afghanistan and has made its contribution in facilitating Afghanistan's peace and rebuilding process.

The fourth ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Process will be convened in Tianjin, China, in August. China would like to closely cooperate with Afghanistan and the international community and facilitate the meeting so as to send a clear and positive signal of support for Afghanistan's political, economic and security transition. China would like to work with the international community in our joint effort to push for Afghanistan's early realization of durable peace and sustainable development.

Mr. Mangaral (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for their briefings.

Chad welcomes the role played by UNAMA in supporting the transition process in Afghanistan, in accordance with its mandate. That has contributed to the preparation of free and fair presidential elections with broad voter participation. We also welcome the efforts of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Despite threats by terrorists and other armed groups, the elections had a large number of female candidates. We therefore commend the courage of the Afghan people and encourage it to continue to fight for change. We call on the candidates to show restraint, maintain the calm atmosphere that prevailed during the electoral campaign, apply the remedies provided for by the laws in force for those filing objections and complaints and accept the verdict of the polls following the proclamation of the results.

Chad welcomes UNAMA's approach to resolving the post-election crisis by encouraging dialogue between candidate Abdullah Abdullah's camp, the members of the Independent Election Commission and the other candidates. We note with satisfaction the involvement of all components of Afghan society, in particular the political parties, traditional and religious authorities and civil society for their willingness to resolve the crisis by direct, inclusive dialogue, which is the sole guarantee for preserving peace in Afghanistan.

We deplore the fact that the security and human rights situation deteriorated during and after the vote as a result of acts of violence and intimidation perpetrated by the Taliban in association with Al-Qaida and other armed groups against voters, including the cutting off of fingers of persons who had voted. Those cruel and criminal acts constitute serious violations of human rights; the perpetrators should be prosecuted and held to account.

We wish to express our sympathy with the Afghan people, the families and staff of the accredited diplomatic missions in Afghanistan for the victims of the deadly attacks. We wish a speedy recovery to the injured. Chad believes that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjust, whatever the purpose, the time, the place and the perpetrators.

We welcome the political and diplomatic efforts deployed at the regional level for the strengthening

peace and security in Afghanistan. We encourage those promoting peace and security to continue in that direction. We are worried, however, by the increase in drug and narcotics trafficking, which adversely affects the population of the region and far beyond. In that regard, we welcome the Government's work to eradicate the cultivation of opium and its related enforcement efforts. We invite and encourage Afghanistan's neighbouring States to continue to work towards coordination and the cross-border fight against trafficking in drugs and weapons and we call on international community to support those efforts.

We deplore the fact that the humanitarian situation has deteriorated as a result of natural disasters bringing suffering to vulnerable populations in the northern part of Afghanistan, in particular women, children and the elderly. We support the Secretary-General's call to increase humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. We condemn all armed groups that are attacking humanitarian personnel in order to prevent them from bringing assistance to those in need. We also condemn the recruitment of child soldiers and violence against women and girls.

In conclusion, we call on the international community and the future Afghan Government to take all relevant measures to strengthen the country's security after the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force. We offer our heartfelt support to all United Nations personnel working in difficult and dangerous conditions in order to maintain peace and security in Afghanistan.

Mr. De Antueno (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš for presenting the report of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan (S/2014/420). I also thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov, and Ambassador Tanin of Afghanistan, for their briefings.

While Afghanistan awaits the results of the presidential elections, Argentina would like to express to the people and the Government of Afghanistan its desire that the elections allow them to consolidate their political transition and that they become the basis for strengthening their stability, reinforcing their national unity and promoting their sustainable development with equality. The high turnout by the people of Afghanistan, including the unprecedented number of women who participated in the electoral process, demonstrates the commitment of the people of Afghanistan to building their own future and their determination to fight for their rights in the face of threats and attacks from the Taliban. For the political transition to be legitimate, it is important that the presidential election effectively reflect the popular will demonstrated at the ballot box. It is vital that the allegations of fraud be investigated, the disputes be resolved through the proper legal framework and all candidates accept the outcome of the elections.

The challenges that await the new authorities are as well-known as they are overwhelming. The new authorities will also have to address the Afghan people's desire for peace. In that context, a peace process that includes direct consultations between the Government and the main opposition forces is essential to put an end to the cycle of violence that continues to afflict Afghanistan.

A democratic and prosperous Afghanistan will depend on the success of the reconciliation process in the framework of a comprehensive strategy for protecting and promoting human rights and access to education, health services and work for all Afghan people. The Government of Afghanistan has a responsibility that it cannot put off or ignore to ensure the full implementation of the law on the elimination of violence against women so that perpetrators are held accountable. In that context, we note the change in the criminal code allowing women to testify against family members and thus facilitating trials for domestic violence cases. In addition, it is encouraging to see the progress that the Government of Afghanistan has achieved in implementing its plan of action on children in armed conflict.

It is worrying that Afghanistan is one of the least developed countries and that the security sector absorbs almost half of its national budget. Implementing the Kabul process and coordinating development assistance continues to be vital, but no less important than the fact that humanitarian assistance and development should respect the priorities and programmes established by the Government of Afghanistan itself.

Argentina supports efforts to prevent the production and trafficking of drugs in Afghanistan. Regional cooperation is crucial, both in terms of applying the law and criminal justice processes and in terms of seeking to reduce the demand for drugs. It is of concern that, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Afghanistan is facing one of the highest levels of drug addiction in the entire world. In that

context, we believe that it is appropriate that special attention be given to young people in the programmes being implemented in Afghanistan. We highlight the important role being played by the United Nations in support of national efforts and the importance of coordinating between the various agencies in the system to implement a comprehensive approach in that regard.

This year, as Afghanistan is preparing to assume new and growing responsibilities, the role of the United Nations continues to be crucial in assisting the Government to meet its security and development obligations and supporting the coordination of international aid, among other things. The Afghan people should not be abandoned.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš for his update to the Council and Mr. Fedotov for his briefing. I also thank Ambassador Tanin for his remarks. I will focus today on four areas: elections, security, engagement with the Government of Afghanistan and counter-narcotics.

Since the Council last met to discuss Afghanistan in March (see S/PV.7139) we have seen some extraordinary moments of courage from the Afghan people. In April and again earlier this month, they showed the world their desire to have a say in their country's future by turning out to vote in the presidential elections. They voted for peace, as Ambassador Tanin said. That is a huge achievement.

As the electoral process enters the final stages, it is essential that all stakeholders act in the interest of stability and national unity. Special Representative Kubiš has underlined the need to find a way forward. We urge both presidential candidates and their teams to demonstrate the same patience and respect with the electoral authorities that they did during the first round.

At this critical time in the process, both candidates need to work with the Independent Election Commission and Independent Electoral Complaints Commission and their established legal mechanisms for investigating and adjudicating complaints, as the representative of Australia and others have said. We also urge the electoral institutions to conduct their investigations thoroughly and transparently.

The fighting season in Afghanistan is under way, and security is a challenge for all concerned. Over the past three months, as the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/420) highlights, a high number of incidents have been reported. Innocent civilians have been targeted and killed. Those attacks must be strongly condemned.

We pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the security forces operating in Afghanistan at this challenging time. Their dedication has allowed the Government of Afghanistan to build the foundations for a stable and democratic country. In particular, we recognize the contributions of the Afghan National Security Forces. Their security plans, implemented as a backdrop to insurgent attempts to disrupt the elections, were a testament to both their confidence and their capability. The support of NATO and the international community will be vital to ensuring that security in Afghanistan lasts. The NATO Summit to be hosted by the United Kingdom later in 2014 will be an opportunity to underline the establishment of NATO's military, financial and political support to Afghanistan beyond 2014 and to mark the achievements of the International Security Assistance Force. Regional initiatives such as the Istanbul Process, for which China will host the next meeting in Tianjin at the end of August 2014, will continue to play a vital role.

Once a new President and his team are in place in Afghanistan, the United Kingdom will work in close cooperation with partners on the Council and the wider international community to pursue shared aspirations. Together we must set out a constructive approach that allows the new Afghan President and his team the space to formulate their own vision for the future while pressing ahead on the key reforms and priorities we know must happen quickly.

For the United Kingdom, the signing of the United States-Afghan bilateral security agreement and the NATO status-of-forces agreement is key. Subject to those agreements, the Resolute Support mission will be a vital part of NATO's engagement in Afghanistan beyond 2014. President Obama's announcement of the United States contribution, which the representative of the United States just referred to a moment ago, is a significant step forward.

We also want to signal the importance of a peace process and engagement with key regional partners on how best to sustain the progress made in the region. On the economy, steps to shore up longer-term confidence in Afghanistan's economic future will be vital, including by adopting and implementing important economic legislation. The support of the Council and the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

will be essential in that effort, both in signalling our expectations and delivering key assistance on the ground.

Finally, as Mr. Fedotov has outlined to the Council, the challenge posed by drugs to Afghanistan and the wider region is serious. The United Kingdom recognizes the importance of tackling the drug trade and the significant challenges that remain. That is a complex problem, which requires a comprehensive approach combining tougher law enforcement, economic development initiatives and the promotion of alternative livelihoods. The United Kingdom will continue to work with the United Nations and international partners to support the Afghan Government in that effort.

For all the challenges that lie ahead, we see many reasons to be hopeful in Afghanistan. The United Kingdom will continue to play a strong and committed role in supporting the Government of Afghanistan in building a more peaceful and prosperous future for all Afghans.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Ján Kubiš, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Fedotov, for their briefings.

Mr. Kubiš's absence from New York today is a telling testament to the importance of following the situation in the country hour by hour and of the ever-pressing need of an attentive presence alongside Afghanistan. I take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for its exemplary work and to commend all its personnel for their commitment.

Afghanistan has just experienced a major turning point in its political life. The holding of two elections, presidential and provincial, has revealed the high degree of professionalism of the Afghan authorities responsible for their organization. Moreover, the mass participation of Afghans, especially women, in both rounds of the presidential election bore witness to their courage and to their desire to embrace democratic rules. We extend our congratulations in particular to the Afghan National Security Forces for their outstanding performance in securing that democratic convergence. They thereby frustrated the aims of those who refuse the resolute choice made by the Afghans in favour of a future where violence and coercion are not policy options.

The post-election phase will be as critical as the preparations for the elections. It is essential that any challenges to the results, if the latter have not been arrived at according to the rules and procedures, do not tarnish the success of Afghan democracy. There can be no other manner of appointing the future Afghan President than through full respect for the electoral process. That holds true for future votes as well.

Both candidates must comply with current operations and avoid all provocative rhetoric. Confidence in the balloting and counting of votes and in the announcement of the results is the key to the legitimacy of the future President and hence of his ability to take the reins of the country. In that regard, we welcome the decision by Mr. Abdullah Abdullah to resume cooperation with the competent institutions. A draft presidential statement has been prepared to that end at the initiative of Australia, welcoming the commitment of all stakeholders to the success of this phase.

Afghanistan's launch into a new phase must not allow us to forget the many challenges the country is still facing and for which the support of the international community is necessary. We are concerned by the upsurge in drug trafficking. I shall not expatiate on the extent of the problem. We are aware of the efforts being made by the Afghans on that front, as rightly recalled by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2014/420). We know above all that the challenge requires the commitment of all, especially Afghanistan's regional partners. All must be done to avoid the worst — that is, leaving Afghanistan on its own to address an uprising that, while surely weakened, has not been fully suppressed. Nor can we abandon the Afghan National Security Forces, which have proved their robustness and efficiency, but are worried about the withdrawal of the international community, with a rebuilt but still very fragile socioeconomic and institutional fabric.

The draft presidential statement that we shall adopt today, at the initiative of Russia, makes that very assessment. It is not a criticism of the Afghans as new authorities prepare to take power. It is not an a priori directive framing the future of international commitment. As one phase of intense international involvement draws to a close, it is an invitation to reflect on the shape of our future presence. The draft presidential statement, which incorporates the broad principles already laid down by the Council, stresses

that the subject of the fight against drugs will also be part of our thinking.

The action of the international community in Afghanistan must indeed adapt. The models applied hitherto, characterized by a counter-insurgency strategy, will necessarily evolve. However, we will not renounce the values for which we fought alongside Afghans for 10 years. I am thinking in particular of the role and rights of women in Afghan society.

We have a few months before us to evaluate and determine how the international community can support Afghanistan in the long term. In that respect, the place assigned to the fight against drugs in the UNAMA mandate will have to be strengthened. All possible synergies among the actors in Afghanistan should be supported; while it must need evolve into a counter-narcotics entity, UNAMA will have to assume that role.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Russian Federation.

We are grateful to Mr. Kubiš and Mr. Fedotov for their detailed briefings, and to Mr. Tanin for his interesting statement.

The Russian delegation aligns itself with the statement to be made by the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic on behalf of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

For our part, we also wish to emphasize the historic importance of the presidential and provincial elections. The fact that they were successfully conducted, despite attempts by terrorists and extremist forces to disrupt them, confirms the Afghan people's commitment to a strong, independent and democratic State. However, we find it unsettling that the process has been fraught with uncertainty, which arose after the second round of presidential elections. We hope that all grievances and disputes related to the electoral process and vote counting will be settled legally, in the higher interests of the Afghan people.

At this critical juncture, we reiterate the need for a fair and comprehensive analysis of the risks and threats facing Afghanistan. The aggressive activities of the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other terrorist and extremist groups is causing a significant increase in civilian casualties and losses among the Afghan security forces personnel. Despite their dedication, armed opposition, fuelled by internal and external sources, including through drug production and drug trafficking, are entrenching themselves in large areas of the country, including regions that had been completely controlled by the Government. There is a deteriorating situation in the south, south-east and east, where more than 60 per cent of all security incidents have occurred. It is troubling that Al-Qaida affiliated groups have felt increasingly free to conduct brazen attacks on Government forces in coordination with the Taliban and other extremist groups.

We are particularly concerned about the growth of terrorist activity and the strengthening of anti-Government forces in the north and north-east, directly bordering our friends and allies in the CSTO and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The armed opposition groups now total more than 10,000, while three to four years ago, north Afghanistan was relatively peaceful. There is a clearly visible trend of terrorist activity overflowing Afghanistan's borders, as evidenced by the increasingly frequent cross-border incidents. This creates new challenges to the security of Central Asia.

We hope that, by the end of this year, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will fully report to the Security Council on the implementation of its mandate. The question remains of a possible foreign military presence in Afghanistan after 2014. In any case, when deciding what stabilization actions are necessary, a foreign military contingent should no longer be needed in Afghanistan.

Russia fully supports the efforts of the Afghan Government to promote national reconciliation. We agree with our Afghan friends that a leading role should be played by the Afghans themselves. Dialogue with the armed opposition should be organized based on a triad of principles: fighters must renounce violence, recognize the Constitution and cut ties with Al-Qaida. There can be no attempts to dilute those principles or weaken the Security Council sanctions regime with the allegedly noble goal of speeding up dialogue, because the results will indeed be the opposite of those desired.

Today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan is held on the eve of the International Day against Drug Use and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June. Unfortunately, we regret that despite the concerted efforts of the international community and the Government of Afghanistan, the situation of the illegal production and trafficking of drugs and narcotics in the country

is not improving, but actually tending to worsen. Afghanistan is turning into one of the global hubs of drug production, as evidenced by data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The volume of illegally cultivated Afghan opiate poppy continues to rise. In the past year, areas under cultivation increased by 36 per cent as compared with those of 2012. At the same time, there has been a 50 per cent increase in the production of opium.

In that regard, the presence of many thousands of ISAF troops withdrew, under various pretexts, from active combat related to narcotics production, despite the obvious risks that the trafficking presents for stabilization in Afghanistan. We encourage the new Afghan leadership to make counter-narcotics efforts a priority. Without solving that issue there can be neither healthy development nor stability in the country or the region. It would seem that this moment could be a turning point in terms of scaling up international efforts to combat the scourge of drug trafficking, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan. Of particular importance in that regard is the need for consistent steps towards furthering cooperation in bilateral, regional, subregional and multilateral formats, primarily with the countries of the region, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Among the most urgent measures to combat the threat of drugs we would place the consolidation of counter-narcotics institutions, along with the development of international, inter-State and non-governmental mechanisms for drug rehabilitation, enhanced targeted pressure on the Afghan drug industry, strategic anti-drug operations, increased police cooperation and the pursuit of a common agricultural policy, including through the implementation of alternative development programmes in Afghanistan that speed up the industrialization of the country.

We believe that the promotion of alternative development programmes could be the key to freeing Afghan society from the domination of the drug economy. Such programmes should be extended to the whole of Afghanistan, and should be made the major thrust of the country's economic development. In that context, I would like to note that the Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics held in Moscow on 15 May adopted an outcome document providing for a set of measures that would strengthen international efforts to eradicate the drug problem, in particular by drawing up a comprehensive plan for alternative development in Afghanistan from 2015 to 2020, and by creating a global alliance for alternative development. The participants at the meeting also agreed on the need to create an international drug rehabilitation fund to assist individual countries in establishing national systems for comprehensive rehabilitation and re-socialization for drug users. And there was support for Russia's proposal to establish an international headquarters to combat the Afghan drug threat with the aim of consolidating the disparate anti-drug programmes in Afghanistan and establishing effective, internationally controlled mechanisms for eradicating drug production.

Given the massive negative geopolitical impact of the industrial production of Afghan narcotics, it would seem pertinent to consider including that issue on the agenda of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the global narcotics problem. At the same time, preparations for that meeting should be based on a comprehensive approach to the drug issue, relying on the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a key United Nations body in that area.

In conclusion, we fully believe that there is a need to bolster regional cooperation in order to assist Afghanistan in building a peaceful, independent and economically prosperous State. We believe that the ideal platform for synchronizing regional efforts to assist Afghanistan is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in which practically all countries in the region, including Afghanistan, are represented.

Achieving tangible results in the stabilization of Afghanistan and its development as an independent and peaceful State, free of terrorism and drug-related crime, requires collective, coordinated effort. Invaluable assistance to that end will be provided by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, whose role as the international military presence draws down will only increase. For its part, Russia is open to mutually beneficial partnerships with all stakeholders in the implementation of significant projects that will help Afghanistan guarantee sustainable development, well-being and prosperity for all its citizens.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I will now resume my role as President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council welcomes the holding of the second round of the Afghan presidential

election on 14 June and reiterates the importance of these historic elections to Afghanistan's transition and democratic development. It commends the participation and courage of the Afghan people to cast their ballot despite the threat and intimidation by the Taliban and other violent extremist and terrorist groups. It further commends the participation of Afghan women in the electoral process, and underlines the key role that they play in Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability.

"The Security Council notes positively the efforts of the Afghan people to prepare for and hold these elections, including security arrangements, and reiterates the important role of the Afghan electoral institutions, including the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission. It calls upon Afghan electoral institutions to uphold the highest standards of integrity throughout this important and historic process, and emphasizes that all efforts must be made to ensure the integrity, neutrality and transparency of the electoral process, including the detection and prevention of fraud.

"The Security Council calls on all stakeholders to engage with the electoral institutions and processes with patience and respect, refrain from any acts that incite imminent violence and civil disorder or lead to instability, and to channel complaints through the established institutional mechanisms in line with Afghanistan's electoral laws and Constitution.

"The Security Council looks forward to the conclusion of the electoral process in accordance with the relevant laws and mandates of the electoral institutions and the orderly transition to a new administration and welcomes the ongoing support role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

"The Security Council calls on all political entities to work together in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, with the aim of strengthening Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council condemns the actions of those who attempted to disrupt the elections, such as terrorist attacks against civilians, including election personnel and candidates, as well as attacks against election infrastructure. It condemns violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups aimed at destabilizing the situation in the country.

"The Security Council recognizes the sacrifices of the Afghan people and Afghan National Security Forces during the election period, and reiterates that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2014/11.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council recognizes the threat posed by the production, trade, trafficking of illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world and the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in this regard.

"The Security Council expresses concern at the increase in poppy production as noted in the UNODC *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, noting the serious harm that opium cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption continues to cause to the stability, security, social and economic development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, and stresses the important role of the United Nations to continue to monitor the drug situation in Afghanistan. The Council encourages International Security Assistance Force to further effectively support, within its designated responsibilities, Afghan-led sustained efforts, including efforts by the Afghan National Security Forces, to address drug production and trafficking, in cooperation with relevant international and regional actors.

"The Security Council notes that according to the *World Drug Report 2013*, Afghanistan remains one of the foremost source countries for opiates and cannabis resin.

"The Security Council reaffirms that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in the building of a stable, secure, economically sustainable state, free of terrorism and narcotics and based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations. The Council renews its commitment to assisting Afghanistan on its path towards peace, democracy and reconstruction.

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and recognizes that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council calls on the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's national priority programmes covering the issues of security, governance, justice and economic and social development and to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on those issues at international conferences, as well as on continuing implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, and requests that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), in an increasingly enabling function, assist the Government of Afghanistan on its way towards ensuring full Afghan leadership and ownership, as defined by the Kabul process.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for the transition (inteqal) process, which will entail the assumption of full responsibility by Afghanistan's institutions in the security sector, consistent with the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the NATO Lisbon and Chicago Summits.

"The Security Council stresses the central and impartial role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs, and the strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including women, children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, including humanitarian and development workers.

"The Security Council notes with concern the existing links between international security, terrorism and transnational organized crime, money-laundering, trafficking in illicit drugs and illegal arms, and in this regard emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to that serious challenge and in particular to the close connections between international terrorism and illicit drugs. The Council welcomes the recent efforts carried out under the Russian presidency of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering on the identification of illicit financial flows linked to Afghan drug production and trafficking.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need to enhance existing interregional and international cooperation and coordination mechanisms in order to develop an integrated, comprehensive and balanced response to the drug problem, including as part of a long-term security, development and institution-building agenda.

"The Security Council encourages an enhanced collaboration between all relevant entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including the United Nations Police Division, and the United Nations Development Programme in order to have an effective and detailed coordination mechanism to prioritize activities, support the National Drug Control Strategy and ensure coordinated implementation of a comprehensive United Nations comprehensive approach. It encourages the inclusion of combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the work of all relevant United Nations entities

involved in Afghanistan, in accordance with their respective mandates and actively maximizing their synergies.

"The Security Council reaffirms specifically in that context its support for the implementation, under the leadership and ownership of the Afghan people, of the commitments set out in the London (S/2010/65) and Kabul Conference communiqués, and of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and of the National Drug Control Strategy as part of the comprehensive implementation strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region and the international community and with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations, consistent with the Kabul process and in line with the national priority programmes.

"The Security Council, stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional and interregional cooperation, welcomes in that regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, and calls on the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to accelerate the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, including through alternative livelihood programmes, encourages additional international support for the four priorities identified in that Strategy, and commends the support provided by the UNODC to the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy, the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, relevant efforts by the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, the European Union (EU) through the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia and Border Management Northern Afghanistan, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) engagement with Afghanistan, based on the 2011 Vilnius ministerial declaration, and by means of implementation of the OSCE project at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, inter alia, the training of Afghan law enforcement officers in combating illicit drugs at the Domodedovo Police Academy of Russia and their continued training in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Training Academy, the Siberian Law Institute and the North-Western Training Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service.

"The Security Council calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, with a view to its progressive elimination, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through strengthening law enforcement capacity and cooperation in countering the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals and money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking. The Council also encourages Member States to undertake further action, as well as to consider, on the basis of concrete proposals by UNODC and theInternational Narcotics Control Board, through the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and possible new international initiatives aimed at strengthening the combat against illicit trafficking in chemicals.

"The Security Council notes the ongoing importance of the counter-narcotics issue to the United Nations engagement in Afghanistan. It reiterates the need for the Council to be kept informed, including by the UNODC, of the threats of drug-trafficking and related transnational crime on situations on the Council's agenda, notably when examining the mandates of peacekeeping operations and political missions.

"The Security Council reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to consider the threats resulting from drug trafficking and related illegal activities as a factor in conflict prevention strategies, conflict analysis, integrated mission assessments, planning and peacebuilding support and to consider including in his reports, analysis of the role played by those threats in situations on the Council's agenda.

"The Security Council welcomes further briefings on the situation of drug trafficking

in Afghanistan, as necessary, by the Executive Director of UNODC."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2014/12.

I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Bishnoi (India): At the outset let me thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's debate on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ján Kubiš, and Ambassador Tanin for their briefings. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his quarterly report on the situation in Afghanistan (S/2014/420).

I would like to begin by paying tribute to the people of Afghanistan, who have endured endless violence but emerged triumphant every time. The conduct of the first and second rounds of the presidential elections, despite the threat of terrorist violence and intimidation of elders of the community, is a testimony to the great courage and democratic conviction of all the people of Afghanistan, regardless of their age or ethnicity.

There is no better testament than these recent elections to the fact that Afghanistan belongs to all Afghans, not to any one group or ethnicity. There is a fundamental understanding among the Afghan leadership that while it may take a simple arithmetical majority to win an election, it takes national consensus and inclusiveness to build a strong democratic and prosperous country. We congratulate President Karzai on his leadership and statesmanship in ensuring the accomplishment of this first political transition. His is a special political legacy that will always be recognized by the people of Afghanistan and the region.

We also congratulate all the presidential candidates who participated in both the first and second rounds, under extremely difficult security conditions. Their act of participation in this democratic process and rallying voters in large numbers, despite the trying circumstances, may have done more for democracy in Afghanistan than any other measure. The two candidates who fought the second round also have the onerous responsibility, along with the representatives of other Afghan institutions, of ensuring that the process is completed. The political transition that will take place on 2 August will mark a significant milestone in Afghanistan's history, and we will never forget the great sacrifice and suffering the brave people of Afghanistan have undergone to reach it.

The attack of 23 May on the Indian Consulate in Herat was a grim reminder that terrorism, not ethnicity or tribal differences, is the greatest threat to peace and stability in Afghanistan and to the Afghan people's chances of attaining a path to self-sustained economic growth and prosperity. The discussion in the Secretary-General's report of the security situation in Afghanistan is a sobering reminder of the extent of this danger. We were distressed to learn that incidents in the south, south-east, and east of the country alone accounted for 3,917 of the total number of incidents in the short period between 1 March and 31 May.

The Secretary-General notes that there has also been an increase in incidents where a variety of Al-Qaida affiliates, including the Pakistan-based Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, have been regularly making attacks on Afghan security forces alongside actions by elements of the former Taliban regime. The only way to defeat this scourge is through wholehearted support from the international community aimed at developing a prosperous, independent and sovereign Afghanistan capable of defending itself.

Though the international community's focus has been on the security and political transitions in Afghanistan, we must not allow our attention to be diverted from the equally important issue of the country's economic development. In that context, UNAMA and the United Nations agencies whose activities it is supposed to coordinate have a significant role to play. UNAMA has the important job of supporting Afghan political institutions, but it must also work to harness the unique capabilities of the United Nations and its development agencies to expand humanitarian assistance and development services to the most remote villages in Afghanistan.

India's commitment to assisting the people and Government of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, pluralistic, democratic and prosperous country will remain unwavering. In conclusion, we would like to once again congratulate the people of Afghanistan on their enthusiastic participation in the elections. We want to express our full support for the political, social and economic transition taking place there. Afghanistan is standing at the threshold of a historic transition, and we would like to convey our best wishes to its people. At this critical juncture, we would like

to assure Afghanistan of the steadfast support of the Government and people of India.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): In the past few months Afghanistan has passed a series of historic milestones. The elections of 5 April and the runoff contest on 14 June were both significant achievements. Threats from the Taliban and other insurgent groups aimed at disrupting and discrediting the democratic process did not deter the Afghans, who, with many women and young people among them, came out in their millions to cast their ballots in both rounds. The fact that so many Afghans, particularly so many women, participated in the electoral process in order to make their voices heard, despite the efforts of insurgents to discourage them, shows the degree to which the Taliban has been marginalized among the people of Afghanistan.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada acknowledges the work of the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan national security forces in ensuring that the elections could proceed. That they succeeded, despite threats by insurgents to disrupt them, is a testament to the increasing capacity of these vital security institutions. Canada remains committed to supporting the national security forces and to strengthening their capacity to respond to threats and provide security for the Afghan people. Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned by the recent allegations of fraud that have been made. We urge the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission to take all measures necessary to investigate and resolve in a thorough and transparent manner all allegations of fraud that have been registered, in order to maintain confidence in the electoral process. It is essential that the process, including the adjudication of complaints, enables the will of the Afghan people to be heard.

(*spoke in French*)

The months ahead will put Afghanistan's new leader to the test. Given that the international forces will be leaving the country this year, Afghanistan's stability and security will depend increasingly on well-trained and -equipped national security forces. The international community has indicated that it is committed to helping Afghanistan strengthen its security forces, but that can be realized only if adequate arrangements are put in place on the ground. We urge the Government of Afghanistan to sign the bilateral security agreement proposed by the United States and conclude a status of forces agreement with NATO as soon as possible, in order to enable the international community to begin planning the next phase of military assistance to Afghanistan. It is also essential to ensure accountability and transparency for the international financing, including Canada's commitment of $330 million over three years starting in 2015, that has been pledged in support to the Afghan national security forces.

(*spoke in English*)

The commitment of the Afghan people to a secure and democratic future is clear, and Canada is committed to supporting that path. However, Afghanistan's full potential will never be realized until the rights of all its citizens, especially women and girls, are fully protected and realized. The future success and stability of Afghanistan will be a direct result of the full participation and empowerment of Afghan women. Canada will continue to emphasize that more must be done to ensure that women's voices are heard and listened to in all decision-making processes. In order for Afghan women to be empowered, we must also make sure that they are safe and secure.

Afghanistan must meet its international commitments and implement its law on the elimination of violence against women in order to protect Afghan women and girls from sexual violence, abuse and forced, early and child marriage. We have seen around the world that successful peace agreements are those that listen to the voices of women and girls, who are the foundation of a society. The rights of women and girls must be central to any eventual peace agreement. Looking ahead to the parliamentary elections of 2015, it is essential that the voice of Afghan women not be diminished. We will continue to strongly support the full political participation of Afghan women throughout that process. As half of the population and more than one third of the voters in the recent election, their voices and their opinions are essential to building a stronger, more secure and prosperous Afghanistan.

It is also imperative that Afghanistan's new leader ensure that the country continues to fulfil its commitments under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. Canada's $227 million in development assistance between 2014 and 2017 are contingent upon those key reforms. The Afghan Parliament has already taken important steps towards achieving some of the outstanding benchmarks. The anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism laws are in

the process of being adopted. Such laws are essential to helping curb corruption and increasing the transparency of Afghanistan's financial sector.

We also welcome the approval of the Minerals Law by the Wolesi Jirga, which, once adopted, will help to lay the groundwork for Afghanistan's long-term economic development. There is still work to be done to strengthen the mining regulations in order to guard against corruption, to increase transparency and to guarantee water rights for all Afghan communities, as well as to ensure that Afghanistan's extractive sector is developed in a responsible and sustainable manner. We urge the responsible ministries to put such regulations in place as soon as possible.

(*spoke in French*)

In conclusion, this year, Afghanistan has taken significant steps to ensure the stability and security of its territory. However, there are still challenges to overcome. The Afghan Government must continue its efforts in the areas of security, transparency and respect for human rights. The terrorist networks from neighbouring States that have set up on Afghan territory must be held accountable for their actions. Protecting the human rights of all Afghan citizens, in particular women and girls, must be at the centre of a possible peace agreement. Those are great challenges but Canada is committed to working with the next leader, chosen democratically by the people, so as to help Afghanistan move forward without the undue interference of its neighbours.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We congratulate the people of Afghanistan on having successfully conducted two rounds of presidential elections. Those landmark elections should deepen democracy, bring the first step of a democratic transfer of power and move the country towards peace and stability. It is a defining moment for Afghanistan and the region.

Afghanistan's political continuity and national reconciliation, as well as its security and economic transitions, clearly hinge on a smooth democratic transition. Afghan institutions now have an historic obligation to take the electoral process towards its logical end. It is time to build trust, complete the task at hand and usher in a new era in the history of Afghanistan. We believe that the Afghan elections are an internal affair, led by Afghan institutions. It is the aspiration of the people of Afghanistan to resolve differences within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and laws. We agree with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš that it is indeed a time for engagement and statesmanship.

For its part, Pakistan took a series of steps to support a free, peaceful and secure electoral process in Afghanistan. We bolstered security along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border by deploying additional troops, enhancing communications vigilance and aerial surveillance and increasing patrols. Pakistan has no favourites. Afghans are a proud people and masters of their own destiny. We respect the democratic choice of the people of Afghanistan and look forward to working with the next leader. The people of Afghanistan realize that the political transition will not deliver its full dividends until a lasting political settlement is worked out through an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. Pakistan is committed to facilitating that process.

While acknowledging the professional strengths that the Afghan National Security Forces have been gathering over the years, both the Secretary-General and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have warned that the Security Forces will need support beyond 2014 to ensure their viability and sustainability. The ongoing security, political and economic transitions in Afghanistan must not be thwarted or derailed. The projected drawdowns should be prudent and responsible. They should not leave any security vacuums and no one should harbour ambitions to fill such vacuums. The world had to pay a heavy price for the precipitous withdrawals in the 1990s. A repeat of that precedent would be more costly to peace and security.

There are forecasts of an economic downturn as the war economy, we hope, changes into a peace economy. The Secretary-General has cautioned that the decrease in the physical presence of foreign troops should not lead to a decrease in development assistance. The misperception that Afghanistan was being abandoned must be rectified. The international community has a responsibility to avert a large-scale economic recession in Afghanistan, which could lead to unemployment, displacement and a greater reliance on the illicit economy. The reconstruction efforts must focus on policies that would stimulate growth and investment, create jobs and facilitate the rehabilitation of refugees.

Pakistan continues to host 3 million registered or unregistered Afghan refugees. We have been bearing the burden of an even higher number of refugees for the past 34 years. According to the Secretary-General, the registered 1.6 million refugees alone represent the world's largest protracted refugee population. In April, Pakistan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launched a solutions strategy for the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees. Recently, there has been a sharp decrease, of about 64 per cent, in the return of refugees. The international community must step forward to help quicken the pace of repatriation of Afghan refugees and the United Nations should assist the Afghan Government in creating pull factors.

Pakistan is one of the victims of the opiates trafficked from Afghanistan. We are glad that the Afghan Government has intensified its counter-narcotics campaign by conducting targeted operations, dismantling laboratories, seizing illicit drugs and eradicating opium poppy cultivation on hundreds of hectares of land. Yet we realize that the overall pace has slowed down and that we have a long way to go. Pakistan, in collaboration with Afghanistan and Iran as part of the Triangular Initiative, will continue to work for more stringent drugs control and border management.

Peace in Afghanistan has a direct bearing on regional economic cooperation. In order to enhance regional connectivity, as well as trade and energy flows, Pakistan supports transregional projects, including the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and infrastructure development. Their success clearly depends on stability in Afghanistan.

Pakistan-Afghanistan relations continue to be marked by contacts and communication at the highest level. President Mamnoon Hussain, who visited Kabul last March, along with President Karzai, underlined that the people of our two countries would tap the vast potential for progress and prosperity. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who has met with President Karzai four times in the past year, is pursuing his vision of a peaceful neighbourhood and stable and cooperative relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan and Afghanistan agree that terrorism and violent extremism pose a grave threat to our two countries. We must fight the scourge together. In that context, border management and border security are an abiding concern and priority. Our Chief of Army Staff, General Rahid Sharif, visited Kabul to discuss with his counterpart the security situation in Afghanistan, ISAF drawdown and ways to enhance bilateralism, with particular emphasis on better coordination along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Pakistan and Afghanistan must not allow non-State actors to influence their relationship. Because of the fluid situation along the border, it is important to have more frequent and real-time communication between military and intelligence agencies to address mutual concerns and build trust. Allegations made by Kabul from time to time against cross-border shelling from the Pakistani side are exaggerated and misinformed. When our forces come under heavy attack by terrorists from across the border, we act in self-defence.

We have launched a comprehensive operation, Zarb-e-Azb, to deliver a fatal blow to foreign and local terrorists hiding in our tribal areas. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, while addressing the Parliament on 16 June, said that we have started the operation to make Pakistan a land of peace. Through those operations we would purge selected areas of militants and terrorists, dismantle terrorist entities and networks and establish the full writ of the State. The operations in north Waziristan should not be a cause for concern for the Government of Afghanistan but a source of strength for it.

We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of recent flash floods and landslides in Afghanistan. Pakistan sent three planes loaded with relief supplies for the people stricken by the massive landslide on 2 May in Badakhshan. Afghanistan remains vulnerable to recurrent sudden and slow onset disasters. As pointed out by the Secretary-General, the United Nations should help Afghanistan develop a risk reduction and risk management strategy.

We admire and commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ján Kubiš, for his effective, sensitive and results-oriented leadership of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. I also thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov, for his briefing this morning.

Finally, I thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin for the very insightful, forward-looking and constructive statement he delivered this morning.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to remind speakers of the time limit for their statements and ask them kindly to respect those time limits.

I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting. Due to time limitations, I will make only the salient points of my statement. Copies of my full text will be circulated in the Chamber.

Japan welcomes the adoption today of the presidential statement on the Afghan presidential elections (S/PRST/2014/11). We echo Security Council members in welcoming the holding of the second round of voting that took place on 14 June, as scheduled. The voting was conducted in relative calm, although security threats were witnessed in some areas. We express our admiration for the Afghan people, the security forces and all those involved in carrying out the election.

In support of the elections, Japan provided $16 million. We hope that the process leading up to the announcement of the final results, which is scheduled for 22 July, will proceed in a fair, prompt and peaceful manner. In that regard, it is essential that both candidates, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah and Mr. Ashraf Ghani, respect the mandate of the election bodies and cooperate to avoid worsening the situation. Once electoral complaints have been adjudicated according to the law, both candidates and their supporters need to accept the outcome. The electoral bodies, for their part, must demonstrate transparency and integrity as they count ballots and deal with complaints submitted by the candidates. We hope to see the orderly transition to an inclusive and reform-minded new Government led by the new president. The new Government will have to address important challenges, such as security, reconciliation with the Taliban and sustainable economic development.

Allow me to touch upon the third challenge, namely, sustainable economic development, especially in relation to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, which many speakers referred to today. Last month, Japan hosted an International Contact Group meeting in Tokyo. Participants affirmed that the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework will continue to serve as a reference for relations between donors and a new Afghan Government. As both presidential candidates have acknowledged, the future Government will have the responsibility to implement Afghanistan's commitments made in Tokyo. We look forward to seeing the tangible results of Afghanistan's efforts on the occasion of the follow-up ministerial meeting to be held in London in November 2014. We also hope that the London conference will serve as a venue for the Tokyo Framework to be shared by the new Afghan Government and the international community.

On a related note, we welcome the adoption today of a presidential statement on the issue of illicit drugs proposed by the Russian Federation (S/PRST/2014/12). When I served as Japanese Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, I had the pleasure of initiating a joint cooperation project between Japan and Russia on that issue. Under our joint efforts, 60 Afghan security agents have already received training on anti-narcotic law enforcement at the Police Academy in Moscow. We believe that such efforts are useful with a view to promoting the international cooperation that today's presidential statement calls for.

Let me conclude by referring to Japan's contributions to Afghanistan. Since 2001, we have contributed a total of $5.4 billion to Afghanistan for its development efforts. Japan is the second largest donor after the United States. At the Tokyo Conference in July 2012, the international community made a commitment to provide more than $16 billion through 2015. For its part, Japan has been steadily implementing its promise to provide up to $3 billion over five years. I would like to reaffirm our commitment to stand by the Government and the people of Afghanistan in their endeavours to achieve long-term stability.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ján Kubiš for his outstanding commitment to the democratization process in Afghanistan. We also thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Fedotov, and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Ambassador Tanin, for their briefings.

Between now and the end of 2014, two crucial events will mark the course of Afghanistan's future. First, for the first time in the country's history, there will be a handover of power from one head of State to another based on a democratic process. Secondly, the completion of the transition process where a mission supporting the Afghan National Security Forces for training, advising and assisting will replace the International Security Assistance Force military presence.

The presidential run-off elections confirmed the positive trend arising from the first vote. The high turnout in the elections was a sign that Afghans, not giving into fear, trust the democratic process and have high expectations for a new President capable of tackling the country's problems.

The regularity of the entire election process, up until the announcement of the new Head of State, is critical. Only with the perception of a legitimate, credible, transparent and inclusive process will the outcome be accepted by the defeated opponents and public opinion and thus allow for a peaceful political transition with no upsets. The United Nations is directing its efforts towards that perspective by reiterating the absolute primacy of the election process, of the respect for its rules and regulations and of the importance of dialogue between the two candidates. In this delicate phase following the second round of voting, it is essential that both candidates and their supporters base their conduct on moderation and a sense of responsibility, avoid rushing to claim victory prematurely, and channel complaints through the appropriate mechanisms. That should be done with the awareness that the post-election period requires the country's utmost unity, with a view to its civil and economic development, to be nurtured by peace and stability.

The contribution of the Afghan National Security Forces was decisive in guaranteeing the regularity of the presidential and local elections, thus proving their capability in successfully overcoming the heavy, everyday challenge of controlling the country's territory. As to the insurgence, despite the higher number of attacks and victims on this occasion than during the first vote, once again attempts to derail the elections failed. Nonetheless, we must be aware that the stabilization of the country will take more time and that we cannot let our guard down.

In view of completing the transition process, the announcement by the United States on its future presence in Afghanistan and on the time table of the military withdrawal is welcome news. Clearly what remains instrumental for post-2014 assets is the signing of the bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and the United States, to which both presidential candidates are receptive, and the finalizing of the necessary legal framework for the presence of NATO troops in the country.

Italy confirms its support for the peace process, recognizes Afghanistan's complete ownership and expects that it will not be affected by any setbacks in its gains in democratization and civil and gender rights, nor yield to terrorism. We reiterate our firm belief in the fact that, without an internal reconciliation in Afghanistan, there can be no prospects of stabilization, nor can any possible stabilization be long lasting without the genuine and determined contribution of the other regional actors.

In such a momentous stage of Afghanistan's process of stabilization and development, it is vital, for my country, to see that ambitions are not diminished and that there will be no sacrificing the quality and quantity of the benchmarks to be respected by the Kabul authorities. We expect our Afghan friends to remain committed to the Tokyo legacy and to reach clear and measurable goals in sectors such as the democratic and electoral processes, the fight against corruption, administrative and economic governance and human rights.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vrailas: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

I thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2014/420) and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ján Kubiš and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov for their briefings. I also thank Ambassador Tanin for his remarks.

I would like to reiterate our full support for the important role played by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and all the United Nations agencies in supporting the Afghan people and in coordinating the international community's assistance. The role of the United Nations will be even more important after 2014 in ensuring that the international community's assistance continues to reach people on the ground. It is vital that UNAMA's continued field presence be preserved.

Democracy and the rule of law are among the core values of the European Union. We are committed to supporting people's legitimate aspirations to freely and fairly elect the people that govern and represent them. In the past few months, we have seen the Afghan people repeatedly and bravely express their determination to have their say as to who the next President of the country will be. We pay tribute to the courage of people who ignored the threat of violence from groups who see the people's will as an anathema and women who defied the social conventions that continue to be conservative in many areas to assert their rights.

In all elections, every vote matters. Every vote counts. However, when people have shown this kind courage and determination to have their say, it is all the more vital that their votes and their will be fully reflected. It is therefore critical that the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission ensure that their workings are transparent. Candidates and voters need to be reassured that the processes are objective. In particular, the online publication of results from individual polling stations must be timely, and the guidelines for the recounting and auditing of votes should be consistently applied. Equally, it is essential that the candidates and their supporters allow the time and space for the institutions to perform their duties and exercise self-restraint in this delicate phase. It is important that both candidates act responsibly and direct any complaints through the appropriate mechanisms. Statements that prematurely claim victory or risk inflaming tensions should be avoided.

We look forward to working with the new President and his Government to address the critical challenges that remain in Afghanistan. I am pleased to announce that, on Monday, the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council endorsed a new comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan, which reiterates our continuing commitment to assist in addressing those remaining challenges.

Our aim is to support the development of Afghanistan's institutions to provide the resilience needed to safeguard the progress achieved to date and provide the platform for a more effective and ultimately sustainable Afghan State. The European Union and its member States provide more than $1 billion a year in aid to Afghanistan, making it the largest beneficiary of our assistance in the world. That shows that we are living up to the international aid pledges made at the Tokyo conference. However, to benefit from the full extent of those pledges, the new Government of Afghanistan also needs to show evidence of their reciprocal and lasting commitment. The new Afghan authorities must enact the political and economic reforms set out in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework — reforms that are so vital to the long-term political and economic sustainability of Afghanistan. Urgent action to restore economic confidence, establish a platform for growth and jobs and maximize revenue collection is imperative.

Security remains a pressing challenge in Afghanistan. The European Union asks the new President to reach out to all Afghans and neighbouring countries to invite them to contribute to the development of a stable, prosperous and fully sovereign Afghanistan, including through intensifying engagement in the Istanbul Process. We support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process as a foundation for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. Such peace and stability in the region would be supported by collective action to address the continuing threat from drugs and organized crime. That should include urgent action to root out the corrupt networks that continue to grow rich as a result of the misery of others.

In conclusion, Afghanistan faces a new opportunity to address the fundamental issues that continue to threaten its stability and undermine its progress. I can assure the Council that the European Union will remain a steadfast ally in supporting champions of reform in order to ensure a better future for all Afghans — the sort of future they want and deserve.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Thoms (Germany): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš, Executive Director Fedotov and Ambassador Tanin for their respective statements.

I would like to align myself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

The year 2014 is crucial for Afghanistan. It should mark the first peaceful transfer of power in Afghan history. In the recent elections, millions of Afghan women and men have shown their commitment to actively shape the future of the country. They want their voices to be heard, and they want to see an end to violence.

I congratulate the voters on their courage in the face of threats and violence as well as the Afghan National Security Forces, which were well prepared and effective in securing the democratic process. We now call upon both presidential candidates to respect the authority of the Afghan Electoral Commission and to accept the final outcome once all complaints have been effectively adjudicated. I call to mind the statesmanship of the candidates, displayed in accepting the first round of results. The electoral process is not yet complete. As this is an Afghan-led process, we urge all stakeholders to promote national unity and to avoid appeals to ethnic, tribal or factional interests. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stressed, at this critical juncture the need is for statesmanship, not gamesmanship.

The numerous positive developments in Afghanistan, including the elections on achievement first and foremost of the Afghan people and its institutions, will require our continued solidarity and commitment. This includes support for the Afghan National Security Forces. The signing of the relevant security arrangements by the new Afghan Government is a necessary condition for continued military support, including through the Resolute Support mission. As future international support will concentrate increasingly on civilian assistance, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) will have a central role to play in coordinating those efforts in support of the new Afghan Government.

No doubt, grave challenges lie ahead. That should also caution us against overburdening UNAMA. The Mission needs to be adequately resourced and present throughout the country in order to fulfil its mandate. The new Afghan Government will face a host of significant challenges. We encourage our partners in Kabul to include all members of society, especially women, in decision-making processes and to continue all efforts to protect and promote human rights; to increase coordination and efficiency of international support; to promote national reconciliation and fight corruption as well as to implement its commitments under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kubiš for his dynamic leadership and want to assure the Afghan people and the Secretary-General of Germany's steadfast support.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I wish to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Ján Kubiš; the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov; and Ambassador Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, for their statements.

My delegation endorses the statement made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union. I wish to add, in my national capacity, a number of considerations for this debate.

Spain reiterates its congratulations to the people of Afghanistan on holding the first round of the process to elect a new President of the Republic and new members of the provincial councils. We also commend them for the way in which they conducted the campaign and the voting in the second round, whose counting and legal processes have not yet been completed. These historic elections are critical to the ongoing transition process, and therefore to the future of Afghanistan. They were called to ensure the first democratic transfer of power in the presidency of the Republic, thereby completing the political transformation started 12 years ago by the Afghans, with the support of the international community.

It is important to highlight the exemplary behaviour of the Afghan people, who flocked to the polls with courage and resolve, defying the threats of those who sought to derail the ongoing transition. The statistics — which reflect a participation rate of approximately 60 per cent in the first round, with a 38 per cent share of female participation — make clear the strong commitment of the majority to the democratic process in the country. We also welcome the commitment to maintaining public order shown by the Afghan National Security Forces during the balloting.

It is vital that this process be completed successfully. All political actors and State institutions, particularly the electoral institutions, must show themselves worthy of the brave citizens who, with their overwhelming participation in the elections, bravely and resolutely outlined the future they want for the country — a future of democracy, peace and economic and social progress. It is therefore imperative that, with respect to the Constitution and laws of Afghanistan, all existing legal mechanisms be in place to ensure that the will of the people expressed at the polls is respected, and that the entire process be conducted in a peaceful, responsible and transparent manner.

For all these reasons, I wish to join Spain's voice to those who have spoke before me in reiterating the call on all actors — the candidates, the voters and the institutions — to maintain to the end the exemplary behaviour they showed in the early phases of the electoral process.

For more than a decade, Spain has been strongly committed to Afghanistan and the Afghans. Through our development cooperation, which made Afghanistan a priority target; the activities of our provincial reconstruction team in Qala-e-Naw; and our support for the country's security and the training of its security forces, Spain has responded to requests from Afghans and assisted them in their process of nation-building. Many significant challenges remain. Afghans can count on Spain to remain at its side, as always, and support them in their efforts to build a stable, prosperous, democratic Afghanistan that cooperates with its neighbours and remains fully sovereign.

I cannot conclude without reiterating Spain's gratitude and support for the role played by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to date and that it is still expected to play in support of the decisions and goals of the people of Afghanistan.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Latvia.

Ms. Freimane-Deksne (Latvia): Latvia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2014/420) and his Special Representative Ján Kubiš and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) team for their dedication and continued support for the people of Afghanistan in fulfilling the tasks of the Mission.

First of all, Latvia acknowledges the remarkable achievements Afghanistan has made in the past decade, starting from very difficult circumstances. It is imperative that the progress be sustained in order for Afghanistan to emerge stronger after the transformation decade.

Latvia supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. Inclusive and orderly Afghan-led and Afghan-run elections, with a legitimate process and outcome that are accepted by all, are vital to consolidating democracy in Afghanistan and tackling the country's political, economic and security challenges. Substantial progress has already been made by the Government, the electoral bodies, the Afghan National Security Forces, and the electorate in the preparations for the elections and during the elections. Latvia particularly welcomes the measures taken to ensure the higher participation of women and the results achieved in this regard. Now, at this critical juncture for Afghanistan, everybody should assume their responsibilities for establishing a strong foundation for national unity and stability, and avoid any tensions.

Regional cooperation is crucial to the long-term stability and economic development of Afghanistan and the region as a whole, including Central Asia. Latvia welcomes regional initiatives, in particular the Istanbul Process. The active and constructive engagement of all participants ahead of and after the Ministerial Conference in China in August is important for sustained progress in developing cooperation and building confidence between Afghanistan and its neighbours. Latvia commends the support expressed at the highest level by China, India, Iran and Pakistan for a smooth political transition in Afghanistan and for constructive regional cooperation. We believe that infrastructure projects that strengthen regional connectivity greatly contribute to regional cooperation and economic development. Afghanistan has made remarkable progress in this regard.

In order to contribute to those efforts, on 3 and 4 June Latvia hosted a high-level conference on transport, logistics and trade routes on the theme "Connecting Asia with Europe", which this year gathered over 400 participants, including Government officials, foreign policy experts and representatives of transport and logistics companies from countries of the Far East, South and Central Asia and Afghanistan, as well as from partner countries in the China and Central and Eastern European Cooperation Programme. Among the high-level participants, we were also pleased to welcome the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Afghanistan.

The participants agreed that the synchronization of infrastructure projects was important for long-term stability and growth and that infrastructure projects at the national level must be compatible with regional developments in transportation, logistics and trade. During its presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2015, Latvia will continue to promote closer cooperation with the countries of Central Asia, the Far East and South Asia. In order to further develop

our common vision, Latvia will host the next annual high-level conference in April 2015. Latvia will also continue to contribute to capacity-building for Afghan railroad and aviation experts.

Continued international support and cooperation with Afghanistan are important for achieving sustainable long-term progress. Mutual commitments made at the NATO Chicago Summit and the Tokyo Conference are the basis for partnership between Afghanistan and the international community, matching international political, security and financial support with a clear Afghan commitment to sustained reform. At the same time, appropriate legal frameworks should be in place to enable the international community to provide support in the security sphere after 2014 as well. Latvia has already pledged its support for the Afghan National Security Forces as of 2015.

Sustained economic growth and a State-building process that is founded on the principles of good governance, the rule of law and human rights, especially the rights of women and children, should be the basis for a democratic, prosperous and stable Afghanistan. This is a crucial moment and an opportunity for Afghanistan and all its citizens to build on the progress made and to ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the country. We should build a true long-term partnership, led by Afghanistan and based on mutual commitments to ensuring progress and sustained momentum. Let me reassure the Council of Latvia's ongoing involvement in that regard.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Kydyrov (Kyrgyzstan) (*spoke in Russian*): I should like, at the outset, to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ján Kubiš; the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov; and Ambassador Tanin for their substantive statements.

I have the honour today to speak on behalf of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). The CSTO member States support the role of the United Nations in coordinating international efforts to support Afghanistan. We endorse the approach of the Afghan leadership to ensure the country's progress towards peace, stability, prosperity and broad cooperation with regional neighbours.

We pay tribute to the efforts of the Afghan people themselves, who have striven in the face of numerous challenges to determine their own future and to assume ownership of their own development and security. In that context, we note the successful holding of the second round of the presidential elections on 14 June. We hope that at this historic turning-point in their country's history, the people of Afghanistan will come together to address the challenges and ensure the equality of all, respect for the law and the rights of various groups, and justice and harmony.

The member States of the CSTO fully support the efforts of the Afghan Government to move towards national reconciliation. We suggest that this process should be carried out under the leadership of Kabul and on the basis of three well-known principles, namely, that the rebels must lay down their arms, recognize the Constitution of Afghanistan and sever their ties to Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations.

The member States of the CSTO are convinced that it will not be possible to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan in the long term or to effectively address the challenges facing the country without a comprehensive approach to existing problems. We are gravely concerned by the surge in the activities of the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other terrorist and extremist groups, illegal armed bands and criminal elements, and in particular by their spread to the northern regions of the country, which directly affects the interests of this Organization in that zone. A major challenge at this stage is clearly the problem of illegal drug production and drug trafficking. The strong connection between terrorism and illegal Afghan drug production is particulary alarming, because it undermines Afghan achievements in the sphere of security and its capacity to ensure law and order in the country. We note with concern funding and support for terrorist activities, including income from the cultivation, production and trafficking in illicit narcotics as a country of origin or transit, which Afghanistan is, as well as illicit delivery to the country of precursors.

The member States of the CSTO also express their concern at the growth in the production of opium poppy that was noted in the report *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The cultivation, production, illegal trafficking and consumption of opium in Afghanistan continue to pose a serious threat to stability, security, socioeconomic development and governance in thatcountry, the region and the world as a whole. The member States of the CSTO strongly belive

that the production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs from Afghanstan represent a threat to international stability and provide a breeding ground for international terrorism and organized crime. Combating the drug threat is one of the main components for achieving stability and security in Afghanistan and is an intrinsic part of our overall efforts to combat the terrorist threat, including a possible worsening of the situation given the upcoming withdrawal from the country this year of the International Security Assistance Force.

We support the important role of United Nations agencies and UNODC in monitoring the drug situation in Afghanistan and in helping to ensure security, stability and socioeconomic developent in the country. A significant contribution to addressing that can be made by bolstering bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Afghanistan and other countries in the region. We reiterate our commitment to combating the illicit drug trade and using the potential of regional cooperational to combat Afghan drug trafficking. We therefore accord great importance to the specialized regional structures that work closely with UNODC. In November 2007, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for monitoring trafficking in illicit substances and their precursors was established in Almaty.

The member States of the CSTO reiterate their readiness to continue to support Afghanistan's counter-narcotic efforts, including by training specialists for law enforcement structures at national training centres, providing necessary equipment and maintaining the permanent anti-narcotics mechanism Operation Canal, which was set up as part of the preventive operations established under the aegis of the CSTO. We are ready to enhance cooperation with the Afghan people, United Nations specialized agencies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other interested parties. We call for enhancing international and regional cooperation in order to effectively and jointly counteract the drug threat emerging from Afghanistan, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility. We express our readiness to use the potential of the coordinated work of the CSTO in our foreign policy in order to enhance security and stability in Afghanistan and in the region as a whole.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Eler (Turkey): I would like to thank Special Representative Kubiš and Executive Director Fedotov for their briefings. I also thank Ambassador Tanin for his remarks.

Afghanistan today stands at a crucial crossroads, with key political, security and economic transformation processes under way. Turkey believes that Afghanistan's future should be based on a conscious strategy that draws strength from local ownership and leadership and seeks to pull together various strands of efforts into a meaningful whole. The success of those efforts is vital for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan that can effectively serve the needs of its people.

The most important step in this direction has been taken with the conduct of the presidential and provincial elections. The enthusiastic voter participation amidst grave security risks demonstrated the will of the Afghan people to assume the ownership of their own country. Turkey believes that despite the fragile political and security atmosphere, the Afghan electoral institutions — particularly the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission — have the necessary capacity to handle any impasse or obstacle that might arise in the election process, and trust that a successful political transition will take place. We also believe that all stakeholders will act responsibly and exercise self-restraint. At this vital juncture, the international community should keep investing in positive scenarios for the future of the country.

The successful continuation of Afghan-led peace and reconciliation efforts will constitute another important step towards security, stability and political transition. Turkey has supported from the outset the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, with the High Peace Council at the core. We are fully aware of the difficulties and challenges of the process. In this context, we strongly condemn the attack last week on the head of the secretariat of the High Peace Council, Mr. Stanekzai, and hope that those responsible will be swiftly brought to justice. We would also like to stress that the increasing trend of civilian casualties is worrisome, and increased attention to this phenomenon is needed.

We are glad to observe the increasing regional awareness and ownership related to finding sustainable solutions to the problems of Afghanistan. As international forces withdraw, regional cooperation and commitment become increasingly vital to transforming the region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. Based on this vision, the region must come together to

transform common problems into mutual interests. In this context, we appreciate all bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation efforts, and welcome the positive momentum that has been reached in the Istanbul Process. We look forward to the next Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference in China in August.

To conclude, I would like to voice our strong support for the crucial and comprehensive role the United Nations and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan will continue to play in supporting Afghanistan during and after the transition. Our commitment to the needs of the United Nations in Afghanistan is insurance for protecting the achievements of the past 13 years on the ground. Turkey will always remain in solidarity with the Afghan people and continue to contribute to a safe, secure and prosperous Afghanistan, as we have done for many decades.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7209

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7209th meeting
Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Rutilo
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Rwanda	Mr. Sana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from from 11 March to 28 May 2014 (S/2014/401)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44377 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 11 March to 28 May 2014 (S/2014/401)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/437, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/401, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 11 March to 28 May 2014.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2163 (2014).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7210

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7210th meeting
Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 3.15 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Stancanelli
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Rwanda	Mr. Sana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2014/403)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44383 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2014/403)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/436, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/403, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2164 (2014).

I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Kassé (Mali) (*spoke in French*): It is an honour to speak on the occasion of this meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Mali. First of all, on behalf of the people and the Government of Mali, let me express our sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the international community, especially the members of the Security Council and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, for the interest and support that my country continues to enjoy since the outbreak of the multidimensional crisis from which it is trying to emerge.

On 25 June 2013, exactly one year to the day, the Security Council authorized the transfer of responsibilities from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), established by resolution 2100 (2013) for an initial term of one year commencing in July 2013.

As to what has been accomplished, we see that outstanding progress has been made in the political and security fields, with a particular focus, among other things, on the effective implementation of the transition road map, the evolution of the process of dialogue and reconciliation, the holding of presidential and legislative elections, improving the situation of human rights and establishing a chain of fruitful exchanges between the Government of Mali and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the MINUSMA Force Commander, to whom we reiterate our admiration for a job well done.

Although the efforts of African, French and Malian armed forces have made it possible to rout the armed terrorist and extremist groups while reducing their operational capabilities, it is unfortunate that the security situation in northern Mali today continues to be very worrying. Take for example one of the many passages in the latest report of the Secretary-General, issued on 9 June:

> "Terrorist and armed groups continue to circulate and operate in the north, with an increasing footprint in the mountainous area north of Kidal, the Adrar des Ifoghas, posing a significant threat to civilians, mandate implementation and humanitarian operations". (*S/2014/403, para. 17*)

Given that very unfortunate reality, which the deployment of MINUSMA could not have foreseen, my delegation would like to reiterate the proposal of the Government of Mali put forward by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, in his statement before this body on 18 June (see S/PV.7202). I should like to recall that this proposal, among other things, includes the following aspects.

The first entails the swift deployment of MINUSMA outside of major cities in the northern regions of Mali, especially around villages and nomadic areas.

The second involves carrrying out joint operations between the Malian Armed Forces and MINUSMA to impede the free movement of armed groups associated with terrorists and drug trafficking groups that have not signed on to the Ouagadougou agreement.

The third aspect is to support MINUSMA in isolating and disarming non-signatory armed groups affiliated with terrorist networks and drug trafficking groups, whose presence in northern Mali is now undermining the security gains made by Operation Serval and Chadian and Malian armed forces.

The fourth entails expanding MINUSMA's footprint from the southern to northern regions, where the need for stabilization and reconstruction is real.

The fifth has to do with MINUSMA support for the Malian State in restoring State authority throughout the entire national territory and rebuilding the northern regions.

The sixth involves the collection of weapons from armed groups, as well as the immediate withdrawal of those groups from public buildings and areas occupied and their return to the positions held before 17 May.

The last aspect calls for United Nations support to speed up the cantonment and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as for the Inter-Malian Incluside Dialogue.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the readiness of the Government of Mali to explore with its partners any mechanism that would support our efforts to effectively and quickly emerge from the crisis.

It is in that context that Algeria, to which we pay well-deserved tribute, in response to a request from the President of the Republic of Mali, undertook exploratory consultations with all groups and armed movements in northern Mali in order to develop a common platform to serve, among other things, as a basic document for the Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue, which is slated for the coming days.

Against that backdrop, the Government of Mali has reiterated its confidence in Algeria and asked it to continue its efforts with transparency and the support of the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) so that the talks quickly lead to a final comprehensive peace agreement.

From here in the Chamber, I would like to reiterate the resolute commitment of the Government of Mali to cooperate fully with the Security Council in the implementation of resolution 2164 (2014), just adopted.

Before I conclude, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, allow me to thank ECOWAS, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union for their ongoing interest and commitment in support of our country. Our thanks also go to France, Chad and all our bilateral and multilateral partners for the extremely important role they continue to play for the final return of peace and stability to Mali and the entire region.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7211

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7211th meeting
Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 3.20 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Pankin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Poroli
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Rwanda	Mr. Sana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44389 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Quinlan.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I have the honour to present the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of that resolution. The present report covers the period from 20 March to 24 June, during which time the Conunittee held one informal meeting and two informal informal meetings, and conducted additional work using the no-objection procedure envisaged in paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the conduct of the Committee's work.

I would like to start with the final report on the Panel of Experts' current mandate. The Council received the report on 9 June and it is now available in all United Nations languages in document S/2014/394. As always, the report includes observations that Member States may find useful for guidance in implementing the measures in resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010), and I would like remind everyone of the importance of conveying the report to the relevant sanctions implementation authorities back home. The Committee itself had the opportunity to discuss the report with the Panel on 2 June, as required in paragraph 2 of resolution 2105 (2013), and will consider whether any follow-up action by the Committee is necessary, taking into account the report's conclusions.

In its report, the Panel again notes that some States have indicated a degree of uncertainty as to whether Council resolutions concerning Iran remain fully in force, as negotiations between Iran and the permanent five members of the Security Council and Germany enter a critical stage. I would like to emphasize once again that only the Security Council itself can alter the sanctions measures it has applied. Until there is a new resolution of the Council on the issue, the measures in resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) remain in full effect. The Committee stands ready to provide guidance to Member States on the application of the Council's measures to any transaction and urges them to report any transaction they believe contravenes the measures to the Committee.

In that regard, I would like to advise the Council that the Committee received a report from a Member State during the current reporting period, on 31 March, of the interdiction in the Red Sea by its naval forces of a cargo of conventional arms, including rockets, mortars and ammunition, which were allegedly loaded onto a vessel in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The Panel of Experts, at the Committee's direction, carried out inspections of the seized arms on 28 and 29 April, and on 16 June submitted its report to the Committee. The Committee met this week, on 23 June, to discuss this report with the Panel and is now considering its response. Similarly, the Committee wrote to Iran on 27 March in relation to a carbon-fibre interdiction that I referred to in my two previous reports, seeking Iran's comments. Regrettably, Iran has not yet provided a response.

On a happier note, cooperation between relevant Security Council's sanctions committees, such as that of the 1737 Committee with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has continued. The Council will recall that on 18 November of last year, the Chairs of six Committees and the President of the FATF held a joint open briefing for States Members of the United Nations. On 30 April, the FATF President informed me that he had organized a meeting for 22 June between the FATF and financial experts from the sanctions expert groups, including the Iran Panel of Experts.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I would like to thank the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), under the chairship of Ambassador Gary

Quinlan, as well as its Panel of Experts, for their continued work in supporting the Security Council's resolutions on Iran.

The E3+3 and Iran have reached a critical point in the negotiations on a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear programme. With less than a month to go before the interim deal is due to expire, on 20 July, it is crucial that Iran understand that it must address the concerns of the international community if a deal is to be possible and if sanctions imposed as a result of Iran's nuclear programme are to be lifted. The E3+3 is strongly committed to agreement on a comprehensive solution before 20 July. Several rounds of talks on the comprehensive agreement have been held in Vienna, the latest just last week. We have now entered the drafting and negotiating phase. While discussions have been frank and the atmosphere positive, gaps between the two sides remain.

In parallel to these negotiations on the comprehensive agreement, the United States and the European Union have been delivering the sanctions relief set out in the Geneva interim agreement. We welcome the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency of 23 May, which notes that Iran has continued to implement the nuclear measures agreed on under the Joint Plan of Action. The E3+3 recognizes the importance of working with the United Nations once a deal is agreed on, in order to ensure that the appropriate Security Council framework is in place to support implementation of the agreement.

However, echoing the point just made by the Chair of the 1737 Committee, while negotiations continue the bulk of the sanctions must remain in place, including all United Nations sanctions. States should be in no doubt that all of the Security Council resolutions on Iran remain fully in force. We should continue to implement and enforce those sanctions robustly. The economic pressure that sanctions create is a peaceful incentive and supports the diplomatic efforts to reach a comprehensive solution.

Turning to the work of the Committee, we are concerned about breaches and possible breaches by Iran of its international obligations. The interdicton of a vessel carrying a cargo of conventional arms in the Red Sea is deeply worrying. The arms, including rockets, mortars and ammunition, were allegeldy loaded onto the vessel in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The Panel of Experts, after a thorough investigation, concluded that the shipment was a violation of Iran's obligations under resolution 1747 (2007). That is yet another example of an illicit arms transfer in the region involving Iran. We look forward to the Committee discussing that serious matter further and to its firm action in response.

The 90-day report also highlights the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has failed to respond to requests for information relating to a carbon fibre interdiction. That follows Iran's failure to respond to requests for information on ballistic missile launches last year and on an intercepted arms shipment to Yemen. Iran's ongoing failure to respond is regrettable. We call on Iran to engage in earnest with the Committee on such incidents.

The United Kingdom is committed to finding a peaceful, negotiated resolution of the nuclear issue. The ongoing discussions on the comprehensive agreement are the best opportunity in recent years for a resolution of the nuclear issue. We will continue to make every effort to find a comprehensive settlement, and we look to Iran to do the same.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for his valuable briefing and for his leadership of its work. We would also like to thank the Panel of Experts for their high-quality reports.

Jordan welcomes the efforts of the Committee to assist international organizations and States in implementing the relevant resolutions on sanctions against Iran by responding to the requests of States on technical issues concerning their prompt implementation and by affirming that the Security Council resolutions on Iran still have the same legal authority despite the negotiations currently under way on the Iranian nuclear issue. We encourage the Committee to continue its investigations of violations by Iran. We call on it to contact the Iranian Government as the first step in settling the pending issues with regard to the violations, in particular those related to the arms shipment seized from a ship in the Red Sea, which constitutes a clear violation by Iran of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007), as well as the incident of carbon fibre seized in Singapore en route to Iran.

Jordan calls on the Committee to continue to cooperate with the other sanctions committees in order to benefit from their expertise. Jordan welcomes the efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement between Iran, on the one hand, and the permanent members of

the Security Council and Germany, on the other. At the same time, we encourage the Committee to continue to fully carry out its work.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing and commend him for his great efforts in promoting the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

China has always attached great importance to the work of the Committee and will continue to cooperate with its Chair and the relevant parties so that its work is steadily carried out in a balanced and orderly way. China has always believed that all parties are duty-bound to implement the resolutions on sanctions against Iran resolutely, accurately and comprehensively. However, the sanctions are not an end in themselves. Both the Committee and the Security Council should work towards finding a diplomatic solution. We hope that, in accordance with its mandate and the principles of objectivity, fairness and pragmatism on the basis of clear facts, concrete evidence and extensive consultations, the Committee will continue to deal appropriately with cases of alleged sanctions non-compliance. China will continue to act on the basis of such principles and actively participate in the Committee's work in a responsible manner.

China commends the positive trend demonstrated by the recent diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. We appreciate the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has maintained consultations with Iran to clarify outstanding nuclear issues so as to reach agreement on relevant steps. Currently, the negotiations on a comprehensive agreement have reached a critical stage. At the recently concluded fifth round of talks, the six countries and Iran conducted intensive negotiations on the draft text of a final agreement and achieved clear progress. An agreed draft text has been proposed on the basis of the parties' various texts.

Although the parties still have many differences regarding the draft text, the negotiations seek to narrow those differences. China hopes that all parties will cooperate on the basis of equality and mutual respect and take into account each other's concerns so as to move forward the negotiation process. The parties should remain flexible and pragmatic in order to find a solution.

The early and complete resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue and the maintenance of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and peace and stability in the Middle East are in the interest of the entire international community. As always, China stands ready to cooperate with all parties in actively working towards a comprehensive agreement that is fair, balanced, mutually beneficial and a win-win result so as to play a constructive role in finding a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian issue.

Mr. Lamek (France) (*spoke in French*): I, too, thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for presenting the quarterly report on the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for all the work he has done with his team as its Chair.

The rapid development of the Iranian nuclear programme has been a matter of grave concern to the international community for more than a decade. The uncertainties over the exclusively peaceful purposes of that programme and Iran's refusal to negotiate have led the Council to establish a sanctions regime. However, we have always kept the door for dialogue open.

The adoption of the Joint Plan of Action of 24 November 2013, which got Iran to suspend the most sensitive activities of its nuclear programme for six months, opened a new page in the discussions between the P5+1 and Tehran. Those discussions will resume on 2 July in Vienna and should continue until the deadline provided for by the joint plan of action, that is to say, 20 July.

To date, the negotiations have been difficult. The positions of the P5+1 and Iran remain apart on several key aspects of the discussion. With our partners of the E3+3, we are committed to reaching a long-term solution that makes it possible to establish and to ensure over time the exclusively peaceful purposes of the Iranian nuclear programme. However, to that end, Iran must commit to taking the technical steps to assure the international community that it will not seek to acquire a nuclear weapon in the future.

Moreover, it remains essential that Iran engage with the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) in a fruitful dialogue on the possible military dimension, past and present, of its nuclear programme. The slight progress at this stage on that aspect must be followed by specific actions on the part of the Iranians. The resolution of all outstanding issues with the IAEA is crucial to

achieving a long-term solution. I also wish to recall that the Security Council resolutions on Iran remain fully in force pending a comprehensive settlement of the proliferation crisis. The Joint Plan of Action explicitly states that.

It is therefore with concern that we learned the conclusions of the investigation conducted by the Committee's Panel of Experts on the interception of the ship Klos C by the Israeli authorities. The report affirms that the transfer of missiles, possibly Syrian, and of ammunition are a clear violation of the arms embargo provided for under resolution 1747 (2007). That incident is worrying on several respects. Not only does it confirm that weapons coming from Iran continue to be spread throughout the Middle East and feed the spiral of violence in the region, but it could also call into question Iran's good faith in its express willingness to respond to the concerns of the Security Council.

It is now up to the 1737 Committee to take appropriate measures to respond to the incident. A first useful response would be to transmit to the Member States the lessons that the Committee might learn from the violation.

We welcome the publication of the final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2014/394, annex). That document is a precious source of information related to Iran's illicit programme and the means used by Tehran to circumvent the sanctions. It also makes simple operational recommendations that the Committee should implement. We hope that all States Members of the United Nations will take note of the final report and use it to improve as much as possible the implementation of resolutions of the Security Council on Iran.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, we would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for presenting the quarterly report of the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We appreciate the work that he has done as the Chair of the Committee.

Between 2 and 4 April, the Panel of Experts of the 1737 Committee visited the cities of Valparaiso and Santiago in Chile, where it was able to directly observe how my country applies and complies with the 1737 regime and other United Nations sanctions regimes. During the visit of the Panel of Experts, on more than one occasion we received queries on the status of multilateral sanctions system. As the Final Report of the Panel of Experts published on 11 June sets forth (S/2014/394, annex), the consultations took place through various interviews and meetings. The report makes clear that high expectations — as well as a confusion of ideas — on a possible broad agreement among the P5+1 and Iran on the nuclear programme of that country were generated both in the private sector and among the public.

That is a new context for the work of the Committee that we think should be addressed. We hope that the members of the Committee will make a serious attempt to reach consensus and move forward, at least with respect to the first recommendation in the Final Report of the Panel of Experts referring to guidance on the status of Security Council sanctions against Iran.

Chile supports the diplomatic efforts to promote dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes. As we have said on other occasions, our country is following with great interest the ongoing negotiations, even if we do so with some caution. Our attitude stems from such cases as that of the vessel *Klos C*, currently under consideration by the Committee, which, according to information collected, would seem to be a violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007).

Mr. Baublys (Lithuania): I would like to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his quarterly briefing on the work of the Security Council Committee on Iran. I would also wish to commend the Committee and its Panel of Experts for their important work.

Lithuania strongly believes in the need for a comprehensive, negotiated and long-term solution that would build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, in full compliance with its international obligations. Lithuania welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action by the E3+3 and Iran of 24 November 2013. It is encouraging that the talks have now moved into the drafting phase. We encourage Iran to engage constructively with the E3+3 in resolving all outstanding issues, including those related to the possible undisclosed military dimension of the nuclear programme.

We also welcome the continuing cooperation of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency under the Framework for Cooperation. It is encouraging that the Agency could confirm the implementation by Iran of six initial and seven subsequent practical measures, as well as the agreement on a further five practical measures.

The provision of design and other relevant information, as well as access to various facilities, is an essential element in helping the Agency to build a clearer picture of Iran's nuclear programme. Pending a comprehensive solution, all Security Council sanctions imposed on Iran remain in effect. Both Iran and Member States, as well as their nationals and entities, are obliged to fully implement relevant Security Council measures. Therefore, the work of both the Committee and the Panel of Experts in verifying compliance should remain unaffected.

We welcome the final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2014/394, annex) and its swift public release. We are particularly pleased with the Panel's in-depth analysis of methods used for the evasion of sanctions and the financing of prohibited activities. The report also contains sensible recommendations that should be addressed by the Committee without delay. It is important to note that the majority of incidents investigated by the Panel of Experts were related to items that fall below established control thresholds. That underscores the need for guidance to Member States on the implementation of the catch-all clause. We see merit in adopting the implementation assistance notice in that regard, as recommended by the Panel of Experts last year.

We remain concerned, however, about the disturbing pattern of conventional arms embargo violations with persistent reports of arms transfers to Syria and elsewhere. The Panel's final report rightly points out that Iran's actions on conventional arms stand in clear contrast to apparent restraint in areas related to the nuclear programme. The latest case discussed at the Committee, which involves attempted transfer from Iran of containers with concealed rockets, mortars and related material on the vessel *Klos C*, was another clear violation of Iran's obligations to comply with the arms embargo. It merits an appropriate response by the Committee.

Finally, let me reaffirm Lithuania's support for all efforts aimed at finding a comprehensive solution to the Iran's nuclear issue that would be the basis for building international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. We reiterate our hope that Iran's engagement in the E3+3 talks would also translate into cooperation with the Committee.

Mr. Dunn (United States of America): We would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing and his leadership of the Committee. We appreciate his efforts and those of the Committee to ensure that the Committee remains active in carrying out its important mandate.

The Council meets at a time when P5+1 talks on Iran's nuclear programme are taking place. I would like to touch briefly on those talks and discuss the importance of sanctions implementation in the recent seizure of arms aboard the vessel *Klos C*. The P5+1 countries remain united in their determination to resolve the concerns of the international community with regard to the Iranian nuclear programme and to bring Iran into compliance with Security Council resolutions. The P5+1 is now in an active and intense diplomatic phase in its efforts to reach a settlement with Iran. Such an outcome must achieve our goals of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and ensuring that Iran's nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.

But for now in the absence of such an agreement, all sanctions imposed by the Security Council remain fully in effect. The mandates of the Security Council's Iran Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts remain unchanged. During this period of negotiations, the work of the Committee and the Panel has played and will continue to play a role supporting international diplomatic efforts. We therefore urge the Committee to continue carrying out its important functions. The Committee should be continuously taking steps to improve enforcement of United Nations sanctions and respond effectively to violations.

In that vein, the United States welcomes the 2014 final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2014/394, annex). We encourage all States Members of the United Nations to carefully review the final report, which has just been posted on the Committee's website. We urge the Committee to take prompt action to implement the Panel's recommendations to improve sanctions implementation. Implementing those recommendations could help States better understand and carry out their obligations to enforce those sanctions. The United States has long encouraged the Committee to improve its response to wilful violations of the sanctions.

That leads me to my last point, on the most egregious sanctions violation uncovered this year: the seizure of arms aboard the *Klos C* vessel in March. After an exhaustive investigation, the Panel of Experts documented the discovery, on board the vessel, of 40 M-302 rockets, 181 mortar shells and approximately 400,000 pieces of ammunition. Based on information

from the Panel, we know that the shipment originated in Iran, and therefore constituted a clear violation of resolution 1747 (2006). The *Klos C* incident is another example of Iranian attempts to smuggle arms to extremists. Those repeated and intentional violations of resolution 1747 (2004) are extremely troubling, as they undermine both regional security and the credibility of the Council. We look forward to working with other Committee members to respond to the incident and to work continuously to improve the enforcement of the Council resolutions.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): I would like to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his briefing on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We greatly appreciate his able leadership and the robust activities of the Panel of Experts, including the submission of this year's final report (S/2014/394, annex).

Let me begin by reiterating my Government's support for the ongoing efforts between the P5+1 and Iran as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue once and for all. In that regard, we welcome the progress on the implementation of the agreed measures and look forward to the conclusion of a comprehensive plan of action soon. We also underline that Iran should faithfully cooperate with the P5+1, the IAEA and the broader international community to resolve current and past issues, including all aspects of the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme.

Nonetheless, as emphasized once again by the Chair of the 1737 Committee, we would like to stress that the measures and obligations on the relevant Security Council resolutions remain in effect until the Council adopts a new, superseding resolution on this issue.

In that regard, the final report submitted by the Panel of Experts deserves particular attention. It provides a clear rationale for us to remain vigilant against continued activities prohibited under the relevant resolutions. All Member States should heed the recommendations of the report, such as being alert against risks involved with the diversion of dual-use goods and proliferation financing.

The recent interdiction in the Red Sea of a large load of conventional arms, including rockets, and the subsequent findings in the Panel's inspection report on 16 June demonstrate the need for such continued vigilance. It is crucial for the 1737 Committee to actively follow up on the reports and take timely and effective actions in response to the violation.

We also appreciate the 1737 Committee's ongoing cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force and expect further synergy between the Committee, other relevant committees and international and regional organizations.

Finally, I would like to join others in urging Iran to fully cooperate with the 1737 Committee and to respond in a satisfactory manner to the Committee's inquiries, including on the carbon fibre case and other pending issues. Such cooperation is indeed crucial to move us all forward.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I too thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his statement and for the commitment he has shown with his team as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). The Committee's work is highly important.

Luxembourg expresses its appreciation to the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010) for the valuable support they provide to the work of the 1737 Committee. We thank them for the excellent final report (S/2014/394, annex), which is well documented and methodologically rigorous and which it has just submitted to us. The publication of that document will be of great benefit to Member States, who will find in it a wealth of information on the various types of attempts to circumvent the sanctions regime. Luxembourg supports the recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts and calls for their effective implementation.

With the adoption of the joint action plan on 24 November 2013 in Geneva and the start of its implementation on 20 January 2014, a dual milestone was reached. First, the dual approach, which combines openness to dialogue and restrictive measures, was shown to bear fruit when applied consistently. Secondly, the fact that even the most complex cases are not set in stone forever and that no level of suspicion is insurmountable for those who agree to negotiate in good faith was confirmed.

The joint action plan agreed in Geneva, despite its importance, is only an intermediate step on the path that must lead to a comprehensive, negotiated and sustainable solution to the Iranian nuclear dossier. We wish, in that regard, to acknowledge the efforts of the E3 +3 countries, led by the High Representative of

the European Union, Catherine Ashton, to negotiate a comprehensive agreement with Iran that establishes confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

We should recall that the issue here is not to decide on Iran's right to the civilian use of nuclear energy. That right is not in question. The issue is to ensure that the exercise of that right happens transparently, in close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in full respect of all obligations arising from Iran's international commitments.

Pending a final agreement, as others have pointed out before me, the sanctions regime established by the Security Council continues to apply fully.In other words, Member States must continue to exercise the same vigilance as before. We are reminded of that by the *Klos C* incident, in which a ship intercepted in the Red Sea in March was found to be carrying a cargo of loaded weapons from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. That incident, which the Panel found to be a violation of the sanctions regime, shows that Iran continues to violate its international obligations even while it is engaged in negotiations to restore the international community's confidence in it. We deplore that new violation of the sanctions regime, which is not consistent with Iran's stated intention to reassure its international partners as to the peaceful nature of its intentions.

However, we are encouraged that the most recent report of the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, issued on 23 May, confirms that Iran has begun a substantive dialogue with the Agency intended to clarify outstanding issues concerning the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme. We are also encouraged by the fact that the IAEA report confirms that Iran is pursuing the implementation of agreed measures on its nuclear programme with the E3 + 3 group within the framework of the joint action plan.

By way of conclusion, let me reiterate Luxembourg's full support for the diplomatic efforts currently under way in Vienna. We hope that those negotiations will lead to the desired result within the time frame set out by the joint action plan. We also express the hope that success on the Iran dossier could, in time, positively influence the evolution of other dossiers related to issues of non-proliferation.

Mr. Gombo (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Ambassador Gary Quinlan of Australia, for his very detailed quarterly report on the activities of the Committee for the period of 20 March to 24 June of 2014.

Chad takes note of the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2014/394, annex), created under resolution 1929 (2010) and which supports the work of the 1737 Committee, and the recommendations contained in the report. We encourage the members of the Committee to continue their discussions on those recommendations. We also take note of the efforts aimed at a rapprochement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. We welcome the bilateral discussions between Iran and certain countries, as well as the holding of two rounds of high-level negotiations on nuclear issues, from 14 to 16 May and from 16 to 20 June in Vienna, in the framework of the joint plan of action adopted in Geneva on 24 November 2013 between Iran and its partners and the P5+1 aimed at reaching a final agreement on the Tehran nuclear programme before 20 July 2014.

Nevertheless, there have been constant violations on the part of Iran, which Chad deplores. Iran and its partners are at a crucial phase in their negotiations and we hope that they will reach a negotiated settlement on their differences for the good of international peace and security.

In conclusion, we need to recognize that sanctions need to evolve to reflect the situation on the ground. That is why we think that there should be an alleviation of sanctions to bring the Iranians to the negotiating table.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): I thank the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for his presentation of the 90-day report of the Committee. I also commend him for his astute leadership of the Committee and the Panel of Experts for their hard work.

We have carefully read the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2014/394, annex) and take note of their assessment that a comprehensive solution to the negotiations between Iran and the E3+3 is within reach. The observation of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has fulfilled its voluntary measures agreed to under the joint plan of action is significant.

We also note from the report of the Panel of Experts that there is a degree of uncertainty on the part of States concerning the status of obligations regarding procurement related to uranium enrichment by Iran. There is also the challenge of identifying dual-use

items that fall below established control thresholds. The report indicates that it is increasingly difficult for States to identify links between below-threshold items and prohibited end users or end uses in Iran. The report attributes this to more sophisticated procurement strategies on the part of Iran, which allows it to conceal procurement. That situation calls for more clarity on below-threshold items, and we urge the Committee to look into that with a view to providing guidance to States.

On a positive note, we welcome the assessment by several States that there has been a decrease in the number of detected attempts by Iran to procure items for prohibited programmes since mid-2013. The Panel of Experts believes that this may reflect the new political environment in Iran, as well as progress in the negotiations with the E3+3. We shall continue to monitor the situation as we look forward to a successful conclusion of the negotiations within the agreed deadline of 20 July set by the joint plan of action.

Mr. Sana (Rwanda): I too thank the Chair for his briefing and able leadership at the helm of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

Rwanda continues to support the ongoing negotiation talks between Iran and the P5+1. We take note of the start of negotiations on the final nuclear deal. It is unfortunate that there were reports of excessive demands in the round of talks that ended on 20 June, which slowed the process. We hope that negotiators will use the break to rally the camps and come back on 2 July with realistic demands that will lead to a common text by 20 July as scheduled.

The role of the 1737 Committee in support of the P5+1 process is vital to its success. We agree with the Chair that only the Security Council itself can alter the sanctions measures applied by the Council. We acknowledge the opportunity presented by the P5+1 talks towards achieving the objective of the Committee. That is why we should not hesitate to take action that would facilitate the success of the ongoing talk.

The reported arms embargo violation by Iran on 31 March concerning the ship *Klos C* is unfortunate. We urge Iran to desist from any activity that might violate the decision of the Council.

Recalling the last briefing (see S/PV.7146) and today's briefing by the Chair, it was mentioned that the Committee had on several occasions continued to seek Iran's comment regarding the carbon fibre prohibition, and to date it has yet to receive a response. We strongly encourage Iran to cooperate and engage with the Committee on that or any future queries. Similarly, we take note of Iran's compliance with the regulation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and commend the transparency measures undertaken in that matter as part of the IAEA report of 23 May.

Iran continues to implement its commitment under the November 2013 Joint Plan of Action. In the same line, the cooperation provides positive momentum as Iran and the P5+1 attempt to reach a comprehensive agreement. Taken together, we remain hopeful that Iran's action on the Joint Plan of Action and the 11 November agreement with the IAEA are encouraging signs of the willingness of Iran to be more transparent about its nuclear activities in the areas of proliferation concerned.

Finally, Rwanda always believes that a diplomatic solution is the only way to resolve the bottleneck over Iran's nuclear programme.

Ms. Poroli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, through you, Mr. President, I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Quinlan for presenting the quarterly report on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and, as we always do, for his dedicated work at the head of that subsidiary body.

As noted by Ambassador Quinlan in his report and in the previous report in March, the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on Iran remain in force and must be applied by member States. In that regard, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the Panel of Experts for its final report (S/2014/394, annex). We hope that the Committee will continue to consider the recommendations made by the Panel of Experts and will be able to reach an agreement in that regard.

As we do each time the Security Council considers the quarterly report on the work of the Committee, we have received the most recent report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the implementation of the safeguards agreement under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Iran.

In this case, we believe it is pertinent to note that the report recognizes that Iran has implemented the seven measures agreed with the Agency in February with regard to the cooperation framework with the IAEA,

which is currently analyzing the information it has received. We also find it encouraging that the Agency and Iran have agreed on the five follow-on measures, to be implemented before 25 August. In addition, we also think it encouraging that the report acknowledges that Iran has complied with the measures of the joint action plan agreed with the P5 + 1. Like the other members of the international community, we follow very closely the development of the negotiations. Therefore, while we are encouraged by the willingness shown by all the parties, we hope a final agreement can be reached within the time frame that has been set.

As we said here in the Council in March (see S/PV.7146) and in other forums, we are pleased that the IAEA continues carrying out activities related to monitoring and verification of nuclear energy in relation to the implementation of the joint action plan. We remain convinced of the importance of the Agency being able to count on the facilities and resources necessary to carry out its work effectively.

As we said, we welcome the progress in the negotiations and we note the conclusion in the report of the IAEA Director General that Iran's cooperation is helping the Agency to better understand the country's nuclear programme. In that regard, we continue to believe that it is essential that Iran cooperate actively with the Agency on all outstanding issues and that it meets its obligations, including under the Council's resolutions.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the represenatative of the Russian Federation.

We are grateful to Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his briefing on the work of the Committee he leads. During the reporting period, the experts submitted a final report (S/2014/394, annex) and three reports of incidents. We would should like to share our preliminary impressions thereon.

With regard to the incident reports, the Russian delegation has already expressed its position at the Committee's meetings. With regard to our position on the conclusions and the proposal to develop an implementation note with regard to the incident concerning the interdiction in the Red Sea of the vessel *Klos C*, we will make those views known later following a thorough review of the documents. For now, I should like to say that any external activity by the Committee at this extremely sensitive stage of the negotiation process on the Iranian nuclear programme seems to us not to be very timely, especially given that this involves such a difficult matter as arms smuggling, where the accusations against the Iranian side are based largely on circumstantial evidence.

With regard to the final report, we would once again note that the experts should be very careful in their conclusions and assessments. Any information not supported by concrete facts with regard to possible violations of the sanctions regime could have a negative impact on the conduct of the negotiations between the group of six and Iran and the latter's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and should not be included in the report.

We also have some questions about the recommendations of the Group of Experts, in particular about more active cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) when it comes to the implementation of the Iran sanctions regime. The Security Council should not impose on countries the establishment of this mechanism or determine the modalities of its work. The provision by States of additional information not mandated by the Council's resolutions, whether to the Committee, the Panel of Experts or other international organizations or mechanisms or on a bilateral basis, can be done only on a voluntary basis. All accountability requirements are set out in the resolutions of the Security Council. We have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the practice of clarifications to seek to interpret is unacceptable.

I would also like to touch on the issue of certain initiatives put forward in furtherance of the recommendations of the Panel of Experts in the final report. First, we would like to emphasize that it is unacceptable to use the conclusions until they have been substantively discussed in the Committee. That applies first and foremost to contacts between members of the Panel and other bodies referred to in the report, such as the FATF.

Secondly, we do not support considering the possibility of joint meetings between the Committees established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1718 (2006). While it is very important to have an exchange of experiences among the Council's subsidiary bodies, we believe that the Council's sanctions regimes on Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea differ both in nature and political background.

As to the considerations of the experts on the future of the sanctions regime once a comprehensive settlement of the situation concerning the Iranian nuclear programme has been reached, this is an issue beyond the Panel's mandate. The Panel should not interfere in this extremely sensitive process. In particular, it is unacceptable to prejudge its outcome.

For many years, Russian diplomacy has actively worked in the interests of achieving a just settlement on Iran's nuclear programme on the basis of the principles of reciprocity and a step-by-step approach set out by Russian Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov. In that regard, we welcome the holding in Vienna from 16 to 20 June of another full round of negotiations between the group of six and Iran. The talks were very useful and confirmed the overall readiness to continue cooperating in a constructive vein and to hold detailed discussions. The sides began to work work directly on the text of the future agreement, which will continue during the the next round of negotiations in Vienna from 2 to 15 July.

We will continue to do everything we can to achieve a final comprehensive resolution of all issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme and for the lifting of the sanctions against Tehran put in place by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7212

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7212th meeting
Thursday, 26 June 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. De Antueno
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Llanos
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaite
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Rwanda	Mr. Manzi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/427)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-44401 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/427)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/427, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014).

I now give the floor to Ms. Amos.

Ms. Amos: This is the fourth briefing to the Council since the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) on humanitarian access issues in Syria. The resolution demands action by parties to the conflict in a number of areas, including ceasing attacks against civilians and doing everything in their power to facilitate rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need of assistance. With its adoption, we had all hoped for a significant improvement in the situation on the ground. However, I again regret to inform the Council that violence and attacks on civilians by all parties to the conflict and human rights abuses continue unabated, with devastating consequences for those affected.

There have been numerous examples of targeted or indiscriminate attacks on civilians in densely populated areas, in violation of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. The failure to respect and protect the lives of civilians was, for example, apparent on the morning of 18 June, when barrel bombs were dropped on a camp for displaced people in Al-Shajara in southern Syria, near the border with Jordan. Around 350 families lived in the camp. Dozens of people, including women and children, were killed.

Countless others have lost their lives or been injured as the conflict continues to rage in other parts of country, including in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Deir ez-Zor. This morning in Aleppo, at least 17 civilians were reportedly killed and more than 30 injured by barrel bombs dropped near Halawaniyeh Square. Also this morning, at least 15 civilians were killed by aerial strikes targeting numerous neighborhoods in Ar-Raqqa, including an educational facility and a library. On 7 June, 10 people were killed and 55 others were injured when a car bomb went off in Homs city.

Some 241,000 people continue to live under siege conditions, unable to leave their communities, and we are unable to get in to deliver much needed humanitarianumanitarian assistance. Since my last briefing to the Council, only 2,467 people — or 1 per cent of those living in besieged areas — have received much-needed food assistance. This level of obstruction is inhuman and goes against the basic commitment to human dignity and rights that United Nations Member States agreed to in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter, which reads in part:

> "The purposes of the United Nations are ... to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian char :ter, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all."

On 21 June, a truce in Yarmouk was agreed between the parties. The agreement foresees the surrender of weapons by non-State armed groups, the withdrawal of foreign fighters, the return of Palestinian refugees, the restoration of basic services and the provision of humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was not part of the truce agreement and has not been assigned a monitoring role. UNRWA is seeking the support of all parties to ensure it is granted unhindered access, as it has been unable to enter the camp to deliver assistance since early June.

In recent weeks, attacks on civilian infrastructure by armed opposition groups have increased, resulting in significant damage or disruption to water, sewage and electricity networks in the cities of Aleppo, Idlib

and Deir ez-Zor. In Aleppo city, as many as 1 million people remain without safe drinking water after one such attack. In Deir ez-Zor, ongoing fighting, with the deliberate denial of access into the governorate by various opposition groups, has made it increasingly difficult for humanitarian organizations to bring life-saving relief supplies to the area. Over the course of the past two weeks, more than 40,000 people have been displaced to eastern Deir ez-Zor city.

Once again, I remind the Council that targeting or indiscriminately attacking vulnerable civilians constitutes a war crime. There can be no justification for such action. Deliberately obstructing humanitarian access and depriving civilians of access to services essential to their survival is unlawful and inhumane.

In 2011, I told the Council that 1 million people in Syria needed humanitarian assistance. That figure now stands at 10.8 million, 1.5 million more than there were just six months ago. The number of people in need in hard-to-reach areas now stands at 4.7 million, which represents an increase of 1.2 million since resolution 2139 (2014) was adopted in February.

United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners continue their efforts to meet urgent humanitarian needs. Staff have deployed to difficult and dangerous locations to engage in negotiations to secure access and to deliver much-needed aid. Many have been killed, injured, detained or taken hostage. Nearly 60 aid workers have lost their lives in the course of their work so far. Countless hours have been spent negotiating and facilitating convoy movements, in compliance with complicated and onerous administrative procedures. Despite all these efforts, four years into this war we are unable to sustainably reach nearly half of those identified as being in the direst need.

Insecurity and active conflict play a role in preventing humanitarian access to many locations. However arbitrary restrictions and obstructions, including bureaucratic procedures imposed by the Government, limit or obstruct where, to whom and how often we deliver aid. Some opposition groups have also attacked, threatened and refused to cooperate with humanitarian workers.

In April, the Government of Syria introduced new truck-sealing procedures intended to streamline and ensure safe passage of regular aid deliveries. This new mechanism was poorly implemented and resulted in a large backlog of deliveries. Food assistance fell by nearly 1 million in May and has yet to be restored to previous levels, with only 50 per cent of planned food assistance dispatched in June. On 9 June, the Government announced additional requirements involving the submission of monthly distribution plans and weekly loading plans. In addition, the Government introduced new procedures for the delivery of assistance to hard-to-reach locations through United Nations hubs.

The new procedures require three levels of approval, undermine previous agreements and have caused two successive months of decline in aid deliveries. I cannot describe to the Council the frustration felt by experienced aid workers who have to spend endless hours trying to get agreement for aid deliveries as people's lives hang in the balance. The focus of the Government of Syria remains on controlling the work of the United Nations and its partners. Our focus remains on the people who so desperately need our help.

Despite repeated calls for the free passage of all medicines and surgical equipment in aid convoys, certain items continue to be excluded or removed, depriving tens of thousands of people each month of their basic right to life-saving medical assistance. The Government continues to prohibit the inclusion of medical supplies in shipments intended for opposition-held areas. This deliberate denial of essential medicine and medical equipment undermines the very basis of humanitarian action.

The ability of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in Syria also remains severely constrained due to bureaucratic and operational constraints. A proposed amendment to the existing memorandum of understanding, regulating the work of NGOs and aimed at reducing restrictions, was submitted to the Syrian Government on 26 February. It remains unanswered. Effective humanitarian assistance cannot be delivered without NGOs, which remain an essential partner in the aid effort.

The United Nations and its partners remain committed and prepared to scale up operations and provide life-saving assistance to men, women and children in need throughout the country, despite the challenging and dangerous operational environment on the ground. Nearly 3.3 million people received food assistance from the World Food Programme and partners in May; more than 16 million people were assisted with clean drinking water through the provision of chlorination tablets by UNICEF and partners;

around 2.9 million children were vaccinated against polio in the latest round; 2.3 million people received critically needed non-food items from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its partners; and 4 million people received medical assistance by the World Health Organization and partners in the first five months of 2014.

However, needs continue to grow and are outpacing our response efforts. We are still unable to provide regular and sustained assistance to 4.7 million people in hard-to-reach areas. The Council has demanded that the parties to the conflict allow and facilitate humanitarian access across conflict-lines and across borders. Resolution 2139 (2014) is clear and unequivocal on this point. We need a scale-up in cross-line and cross-border deliveries to meet growing needs on the ground. Approximately 1.3 million people could be reached via border crossings we have requested with Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. In previous reports to the Council, I proposed the facilitation of cross-border deliveries through the establishment of neutral monitors.

I emphasize once again the urgency we face. Thousands of people continue to lose their lives every month. In the continued absence of a political solution to the crisis, humanitarian workers will continue to do everything they can, but we recognize that we cannot do it alone. We look to the Council to help us ensure that the parties to the conflict abide by their obligations under international law. Some 10.8 million women, men and children depend on that support.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Ms. Amos for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on the Russian presidency of the Council this month. I thank you and the members of your team for convening many important meetings under your presidency. I also thank you for convening this meeting and allowing us to participate in it.

The briefing provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator reminds me of a well-known verse concerning a man at sea, shackled to his vessel and unable to move, who is warned not to get wet. Under-Secretary-General Amos presented a partial account of the humanitarian situation in Syria, on which I will brief the Council myself.

This meeting affords us an important opportunity to inform the members of the Council and of the United Nations as a whole on the reality of the humanitarian situation in Syria in all its dimensions, as well as the serious falsehoods and gaps contained in the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/427) on the implementation of resolution 2139 (2014) . In order to avoid irritating certain representatives present in the Chamber by referring to particular scandals, I shall confine myself to referring to certain parts of the report itself.

Paragraph 3 of the report refers to the ongoing fighting between so-called "armed opposition groups and extremist forces". Paragraph 7 states that "[i]nfighting between opposition groups also intensified, as the Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) gained ground in the east". Paragraph 12 refers to "armed opposition groups, including Ahrar Al-Sham and Jabhat Al-Nusra".

As a matter of fact, it is scandalous that an official report issued on behalf of the Secretary-General refers to certain organizations, classified by the Security Council as terrorist groups, as "armed opposition groups" in Syria — Jabhat Al-Nusra and other terrorist groups. This is not an unintended oversight. In fact, the Secretary-General's Spokesperson has used the same language, despite our having dispatched, in vain, numerous official correspondences emphasizing the impropriety of using such language.

We would like to ask the Under-Secretary-General why her report does not refer to the actual names of those terrorist groups, which are affiliated with Al-Qaida. She has classified them as "armed opposition" and "extremist" groups. For example, the report labels the terrorist group Jabhat Al-Nusra "armed opposition", meaning that it is not part of the extremist groups. In the opinion of Ms. Amos, what exactly constitutes an extremist group?

The report cites new exaggerated numbers regarding people in need in Syria, as compared to previous figures. The number of those in need is said to have increased, rising suddenly to 10.8 million — an increase of 1.5 million. The number of people in need residing in areas that are difficult to reach is said to amount to 4.7 million — an increast of 1.2 million. The report does not mention how they arrived at those inflated numbers.

My Government has lodged a complaint with the United Nations Resident Representative in Syria with regard to the perfunctory way in which some senior United Nations officials have arrived at the inaccurate and undocumented statistics concerning the humanitarian situation and people in need in Syria, as well as about the dishonest dissemination of that information by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Damascus just as deliberations are taking place to adopt a new resolution on the humanitarian situation.

The drafters of the report have gone beyond their mandate in mentioning the presidential elections in Syria, which have nothing to do with resolution 2139 (2014). They are a sovereign, constitutional right and do not run counter to the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex). To the contrary, the elections are in line with that document: to preserve Syria's constitutional institutions. That is a main element of the communiqué.

Another strange paradox in the report is evidenced in the following statement:

> "The United Nations remains unable to provide a verified assessment of the presence and activity of non-Syrian fighters on a nationwide scale." (*S/2014/427, para. 9*)

Despite my Government's hundreds of official letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council and the open official Western statements about documented numbers of so-called "foreign fighters" in Syria, the Secretary-General and OCHA continue to be unable to verify the veracity of the situation.

In addition to all that, we are also surprised that the report ignores the fact that the main reason for the emergence and worsening of the humanitarian situation is rooted in the rise and escalation of terrorism in Syria. Terrorist armed groups have targeted safe civilian areas, pushing out the population and destroying infrastructure and institutions. Addressing the humanitarian crisis in certain areas in Syria cannot be carried out just by providing assistance.

Those who drafted the report would have done better to ascribe responsibility to the States supporting terrorism in Syria, including Israel, Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, instead of questioning the presence of foreign fighters and the effectiveness of the steps taken by our Government to address humanitarian needs.

Among the other paradoxes in the report is its ignorance of the imposition by certain States of illegal, unliteral and coercive measures against our people, which has directly impacted living conditions. It is therefore necessary to point out the dangerous impact of the sanctions, which serves to expose the double standards on the part of some senior Secretariat officials in addressing the humanitarian situation in my country.

Some States claiming to care for the Syrian people have chosen throw enormous amounts of money at buying weapons for the terrorists in Syria, rather than devoting those resources to the 2014 humanitarian appeal — which is funded at just 29 per cent. A headline in yesterday's *The New York Times* reads, "After Opening Way to Rebels, Turkey Is Paying a Heavy Price". Yet the Secretary-General and Ms. Amos have no proof that there are foreign fighters in Syria.

The Syrian Government provides 75 per cent of the humanitarian assistance in Syria. The Government has taken a number of steps to enable the United Nations to expand its activities, including developing a new implementation mechanism to organize relief assistance convoys in a way that can provide assistance to our people as soon as possible, establishing a branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the governorate of Al-Suwayda to cover the southern region, as well as facilitating United Nations access to many areas throughout most parts of the country, including the governorate surrounding Damascus, as well as Aleppo and Dar'a.

A report by the World Food Programme states that many improvements have been made in seriously troubled areas. Ms. Amos stated that millions of people had received assistance, that children had been immunized and that food had arrived. She did not say how all of that happened. Did it happen without the assistance of the Syrian Government? We have continued to accede to the demands of the international community to deliver assistance from Syria's borders with Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182. It is clear that her report ignores the obstacles the Turkish authorities have created to allowing humanitarian assistance to enter Syria through the border crossing at Nusaybin while using the same crossing to let terrorists through.

My Government is committed to its responsibility to alleviate our people's humanitarian burdens, and we are ready to take whatever measures are necessary to

achieve that, as long as they comply with our national laws and our sovereignty. In that regard, we would like to welcome positive involvement by the United Nations, by which I mean its involvement in a way that mitigates the humanitarian situation in Syria. We categorically reject some States' use of the machinery of the United Nations in order to implement narrow political agendas that run counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, just as we reject the efforts of some States to manipulate the Organization to target certain countries. The invasions of Iraq, Libya and some other States were allowed to go through very smoothly, and there are some who have found it easy to interfere with the Organization. The United Nations belongs to its Member States, and we are one of its founding States. The United Nations is not part of the private sector, to be exploited by the powerful and influential in order to achieve domination and bloodshed.

The President *(spoke in Russian)*: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

Since this is the last meeting of the Council for the month of June 2014, before inviting Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject, on behalf of the delegation of the Russian Federation I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Council, especially my colleagues the Permanent Representatives, their staffs and the Secretariat of the Council, for all the support they have given us.

It has been a very busy month, and we succeeded in reaching consensus on a number of important issues within our purview. We could not have done it alone or without the hard work, support and constructive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat, as well the interpreters, translators, meeting services staff and sound engineers. As we wind up our presidency, on behalf of the whole Council I wish the delegation of Rwanda success in its work presiding over the Council in July.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7213

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7213th meeting

Tuesday, 8 July 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Gasana	(Rwanda)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Olguín
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Sarki
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2014/442)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-45701 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of July 2014, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, for his service as President of the Council during the month of June. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Churkin and his team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2014/442)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/442, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to present the thirteenth report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2014 (S/2014/442). Commendable efforts continued during that period to promote development and economic growth and to strengthen peace and democracy at the national and regional levels.

On the economic front, with an average of 7 per cent, West Africa continues to record the highest growth on the continent. Moreover, since the last quarter of 2013, following the remarkable progress seen in the stabilization process of Mali and Guinea-Bissau, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has refocused its efforts on promoting the socioeconomic development and integration of the region by underscoring infrastructure, energy and agriculture.

However, the countries of West Africa continue to experience great difficulties in responding to expectations in the social sphere. The encouraging economic growth figures have not necessarily had an impact on the living conditions of the people, who have not always benefited from the dividends of economic progress. There have therefore been delays in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. While progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty in the countries of the region as a whole, the results in terms of access to primary education and reducing hunger have been mixed at best. Women and young people are still the most vulnerable groups and the most severely affected by States' inadequate responses to the many social challenges. Moreover, in some countries, increased insecurity has resulted in resources being redirected to security priorities, to the detriment of development.

With regard to the security situation in particular, ECOWAS and its leaders have continued to play a leading role in resolving crises in the region. Thanks to the commitment of its member States, ECOWAS's efforts in Guinea-Bissau, including the deployment of a stabilization mission, have enabled the transition process to succeed. I commend its successful conclusion and the election of new and legitimate authorities in Guinea-Bissau, which has opened a new chapter in the troubled history of the country, which is working towards a State based on the rule of law and enjoying stable democratic institutions. The crisis in Mali, on the other hand, revealed the limits of the region and the continent in responding rapidly to crisis. ECOWAS and the African Union have learned from that experience and are now working to establish mechanisms adequate to a rapid response to such crises. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the resumption of the dialogue process among the parties in Mali, which is the path that can lead to the lasting peace so fervently desired for this important African country.

(*spoke in English*)

While the region has been working to promote development and consolidate democracy, it also continues to face the daunting scourge of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, piracy

and criminality at sea, as well as increasing terrorist activity. We at the United Nations Office for West Africa have been devoting considerable energy to sensitizing regional leaders to the need for decisive concerted efforts to fight those serious threats to regional security and stability. The potential for organized criminal networks in the region to recruit unemployed young people is very worrying. It is essential that the countries of West Africa close ranks and establish effective strategic and operational cooperation mechanisms to address the threat, which runs the risk of destabilizing the entire Sahelo-Saharan region, from the Atlantic to the Indian Oceans. Their efforts should be strongly backed by the rest of the international community and the United Nations.

The region is embarking on a new electoral cycle similar to what was experienced between 2008 and 2010. No fewer than five crucial elections will be held in 2015, in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, the Niger and Nigeria. The societies they will be held in are often highly polarized, with deep political divides and controversies related to ongoing or potential initiatives aimed at amending constitutional provisions on presidential term limits. The United Nations Office for West Africa will continue to work closely with ECOWAS and other stakeholders to help in efforts to prevent political differences from developing into violent crises and to provide electoral assistance aimed at consolidating democracy in the region. In view of the fragility prevailing there, every effort should be made to ensure that democracy and stability are pursued with equal commitment, since they are mutually reinforcing.

The Office has been supporting integrated regional initiatives in West Africa, owing to the fact that the crises occurring there are increasingly regional in nature. In that regard, we have continued to support the implementation of the cross-border security strategy for the Mano River Union, which we helped develop. In working closely with ECOWAS and the Union in implementing that initiative, we are guided by our strong belief that the Mano River Union has the potential to become a beacon of prosperity and stability in West Africa.

As outlined in the Secretary-General's report, piracy and criminality at sea in the Gulf of Guinea poses another significant challenge to stability, peace, security and economic development in the region. In that regard, the continued support of the United Nations, through UNOWA and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, to ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea in their implementation of the strategic framework adopted at the Yaoundé Summit of 25 June 2013 will remain critical in addressing this serious problem.

The situation in the Sahel remains alarming, due to a combination of various vulnerabilities related to governance, security, the environment and socioeconomic development. In the wake of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, several initiatives have emerged, highlighting the need for coordination and complementarity of effort so that all external actors can work together to help the Sahel.

In the context of the growing insecurity in the Sahel, the situation in Nigeria remains very worrying. Despite the Nigerian Government's efforts, the schoolgirls abducted from Chibok remain in captivity. I would like to commend the countries that are supporting Nigeria's efforts to locate the girls and obtain their safe release. In the meantime, the level of violence against civilians in Nigeria continues to escalate. That has resulted in significant displacement in the north. It is disheartening to note that within the last two weeks there have been at least 18 attacks attributed to Boko Haram, which have resulted in innocent civilians' tragic deaths and in people's displacement. The Boko Haram crisis is now affecting security in the subregion. As the Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Commission, I am particularly disturbed by the adverse effects that the insecurity has had on the border demarcation process, which would otherwise have been close to completion.

With the growing insecurity in Nigeria's north-east, coupled with increasing political tensions and divisions in the run-up to the 2015 general election, the country is at a crossroads. In my view, therefore, it is critical that Council members continue to lend their support to efforts and initiatives aimed at preserving stability in Nigeria, which in the past few decades has played a prominent role in maintaining regional and global peace and security. The present situation also underscores how vital it is that the Nigerian political class take a unified stand in confronting the persistent insecurity in the country.

During my forthcoming visit to Nigeria, as the high-level Representative of the Secretary-General, I and the United Nations country team will review the implementation status of the integrated support package adopted by the United Nations in consultation

with the Nigerian authorities, aimed at complementing the efforts to address the Chibok abduction and its related challenges. I will also continue to encourage the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to cooperate and work together as they have undertaken to do within the framework of the implementation of the decisions reached at the Paris Summit and the follow-up ministerial meeting in London. In that regard, I welcome the African Union's decision to consider the possibility of deploying a task force in the region to address the challenge posed by Boko Haram activities, building on the initial steps taken by the countries of the region.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that West Africa is currently struggling to respond to a deadly pandemic caused by the Ebola virus. The outbreak identified in February in the south-eastern region of Guinea has rapidly spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone. While significant progress in efforts to contain the outbreak of the disease has been recorded, a relapse has been noted in the past few weeks, with the risk of further spread within the region. The World Health Organization reports that since February there have been at least 759 infections and 467 deaths related to the disease. It is important that the international community pay due attention and provide support during this epidemic, which is one of many other challenges to stability in the region.

Finally, I wish to thank the Council for its continued interest in and support to the efforts aimed at consolidating peace, security and democracy in the West Africa region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7214

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7214th meeting
Thursday, 10 July 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Gasana	(Rwanda)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Olguin
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaite
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Sarki
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-46224 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Israel to participate in this meeting.

I propose that the Council invite the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in this meeting, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I welcome the presence of His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to whom I now give the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the members of the Security Council on the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip. I felt that the seriousness of the situation required a consultation with Council members.

We are now several days into a dangerous escalation in and around Gaza. Over the past several days, the Palestinian factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad have fired a barrage of more than 550 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel, and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have launched more than 500 air strikes on Gaza, primarily targeting Hamas/Islamic Jihad facilities and private residences of their members. Eighty-eight Palestinians, many of them civilians, are reported to have been killed, and 339 are reported to have been injured. As of yesterday afternoon, some 150 homes had been destroyed or severely damaged, with nearly 900 people having been displaced.

Three rockets were reportedly fired at Jerusalem, with the IDF confirming the impact of one in northern Jerusalem, without specifying the exact location. Rockets were also fired at Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Hadera, Ashdod and Be'er Sheva, inter alia. Some were intercepted by the Iron Dome defence system; others caused material damage and injured two Israeli civilians. An attempted infiltration by Palestinian militants by sea from Gaza into Ashkelon on the night of 8 July was reportedly foiled by the IDF, which killed the militants. Attacks on both sides continued today.

The situation leading up to the eruption of the past few days was already precarious, following the atrocious kidnapping and murder of four young people — three Israeli Yeshiva students and one Palestinian teenager. Those acts shattered a period of relative calm and were widely condemned by the United Nations and the international community. Those responsible must be brought to justice. I would like to take this opportunity to again express my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims of those heinous acts.

Today, we face the risk of an all-out escalation in Israel and Gaza, with the threat of a ground offensive still palpable — and preventable only if Hamas stops the rocket firing. Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel has announced that the Israeli Cabinet and security establishment remain unified in their decision to intensify operations aimed at targeting terrorist cells and protecting the security of Israelis. President Abbas continues to appeal for an end to this crisis and has reached out to President Sisi of Egypt, seeking Egypt's facilitation in the brokering of a ceasefire on the basis of the Cairo-brokered November 2012 ceasefire of which I was part.

The rhetoric has been equally unrelenting. The Hamas leadership, in public statements issued by Khaled Meshaal and Moussa Abu Marzouk, has called for continued resistance despite earlier indications by both Israel and Hamas that they were not interested in a confrontation. It is now more urgent than ever to try to find common ground for a return to calm and a ceasefire understanding.

Once again, civilians are paying the price for the continuation of conflict. My paramount concern is for the safety and well-being of all civilians, no matter where they are. It pains me — and it should pain us all — to be reliving circumstances that are all too reminiscent of the two most recent wars in Gaza. I have consistently condemned indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza into Israel. At the same time, the excessive use of force and endangering of civilian lives are also intolerable. It is unacceptable for citizens on both sides to permanently live in fear of the next aerial attack.

All parties, including Palestinian armed groups, must respect international humanitarian law. Israel has legitimate security concerns, but I am also concerned

at the many Palestinian deaths and injuries as a result of Israeli operations. I continue to condemn the rising number of civilian lives lost in Gaza. Once again, Palestinian civilians are caught between Hamas's irresponsibility and Israel's tough response.

Over the past few days, I have been engaging with world leaders, including the King of Saudi Arabia, the Emir of Qatar, the President of Egypt, the heads of the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United States Secretary of State, the European Union High Representative, and others. All agree on the importance of returning to calm. Our challenge is to help the parties move away from their entrenched respective narratives.

I have also spoken to Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel and President Abbas of Palestine. I called on both sides to exercise maximum restraint, show statesmanship and weigh the risks of further escalation. Gaza, and the region as a whole, cannot afford another full-blown war and another fault line. The potential negative spillover elsewhere in the West Bank is also unpredictable in an already tenuous and combustible situation. The current crisis underscores yet again that the status quo is unsustainable.

A solution for Gaza is as indispensable as ever. Core elements of resolution 1860 (2009) remain unimplemented, including the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank under one legitimate Palestinian Authority, committed to the Palestine Liberation Organization principles. If diplomacy can restore calm and end the violence, a broader ceasefire will have to address the underlying causes of conflict, provide for a full opening of the crossings and ensure an end to weapons smuggling. A solution must also include overcoming the chronic humanitarian vulnerability of Gaza, where water and energy are in constant short supply. I continue to encourage the Government of Egypt to urgently open its crossing for humanitarian purposes.

Turmoil in the West Bank has continued with attacks, reprisals and provocations. Although riots in East Jerusalem have decreased since Monday, clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the rest of the West Bank have continued, including in and around refugee camps. Yesterday, some 10 Palestinians were reportedly injured by the IDF near Ramallah and Bethlehem during protests in solidarity with Gaza, which included attacks on Israeli security infrastructures in the West Bank. It is clear that the international community must accelerate efforts to achieve an immediate halt to this escalation and reach a durable ceasefire. All actors must exercise maximum restraint and respect international humanitarian law. I will continue my efforts to bridge gaps and revive negotiations.

At the same time, I understand that many Israelis and Palestinians are disenchanted with the peace process, especially after the lack of results from the latest diplomatic effort. This setback, and the others that we have seen over many years of Middle East diplomacy, have certainly undermined confidence that peace is possible. But surely no one can wish for the alternative of perpetual cycles of violence, pervasive mistrust and polarized peoples. Now is not a time for further incitement or vengeance. We must not let spoilers prevail. We must keep the situation from getting any further out of control. Any further spiral of violence could have alarming unforeseen consequences.

This is one of the most critical tests the region has faced in recent years. More than ever, the situation calls for bold thinking and creative ideas. We must strive to restore not only calm today but a political horizon for tomorrow. The parties themselves, regional partners and the international community must do everything possible to resume meaningful negotiations towards a viable two-State solution. All must recognize once and for all that only a peace agreement will bring lasting security for Israelis and Palestinians.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine): I want to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your country's accession to the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We trust in your wisdom and leadership in successfully leading the Council this month. We also wish to convey our thanks to your predecessor, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, for a job well done last month.

I also wish to thank all members of the Council, through you, for responding very swiftly to our call, the calls of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and, I believe, the call of the Secretary-General for convening this meeting very quickly. We are grateful that you have done so,

and we hope that the Council will find the political will to act to bring this aggression against our people to an immediate end.

Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his personal involvement yesterday and today, for his contact with leaders in all corners of the globe, for being with us today, and for his contribution to this discussion. I hope that his efforts among all Council members will produce the needed call for an immediate ceasefire and for an end to the carnage and attacks on the entire civilian population of Palestine in all parts of the occupied territory, especially the Gaza Strip.

I come before the Security Council, on the instructions of the Palestinian leadership under President Mahmoud Abbas and with the support of the Arab Group, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to urgently appeal to the Security Council to uphold its Charter duties for the maintenance of international peace and security. We call upon the Council to act immediately to protect civilian lives, which are being destroyed and lost with each passing minute of the Israeli military aggression being waged against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine, in particular in the Gaza Strip. I speak on behalf of the suffering and grieving Palestinian people, who are enduring yet another barrage of death, destruction, trauma and terror, which is being perpetrated willfully and maliciously against them by the Israeli occupying forces, before the eyes of the world, as it persists with its nearly five-decade long belligerent military occupation.

This illegal, inhumane Israeli occupation is unjustifiable in any context and contravenes all principles of international law, human decency and moral conscience. It is an occupation — including armed forces and terrorist settlers — that intentionally perpetrates the murder, burning and maiming of children; the killing and wounding of women, men and elderly persons; extrajudicial executions; the destruction of homes; the theft and colonization of another people's land; the forced displacement and dispossession of civilians, rendering them homeless and impoverished; the desecration of holy sites, especially in occupied East Jerusalem; and the abduction, imprisonment and detention of thousands of civilians, including children. It is an occupation that proves, again and again, its racist, aggressive, expansionist agenda and lack of respect for the sanctity of life and the rights of the Palestinian people, who history has condemned to the misfortune of suffering under this occupation.

Yet, absurdly and offensively, the Israeli Government perpetrating this criminal occupation claims to be the only so-called democracy in the Middle East and to have the "most moral army" in the world, even as that Government is composed of members openly advocating and inciting the killing and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people and engages in such ruthless military attacks against a defenceless civilian population.

I come before the Security Council to say: enough of the bloodshed of the Palestinian people, enough of their oppression under the Israeli occupation, enough of this injustice and enough of this violence and conflict, which is inflicting so much suffering on innocent people on both sides and undermining regional and international peace and stability.

In the past few weeks, I have conveyed many formal letters to the Council drawing urgent attention to this crisis, with barely any reaction, with the exception of the press statement of 2 July regarding the heinous killing and burning of the Palestinian youth, Mohammed Abu Khdeir by Israeli settler terrorists in occupied East Jerusalem. In those letters, I have detailed the illegal actions being committed by Israel in grave violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, human rights law and international criminal law, namely, the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. There is no doubt that the occupying Power is systematically committing human rights violations, war crimes and State terror.

For days, Israel has persisted with its relentless attacks, launching hundreds of airstrikes and artillery bombardment against civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, terrorizing our people, killing dozens of civilians and injuring hundreds. The critical humanitarian situation in Gaza, long-suffering under Israel's occupation and blockade, is rapidly deteriorating and, in this holy month of Ramadan, life there has come to a standstill, with fear and panic widespread. As the majority of the civilians in Gaza are refugees, and camps continue to be among the targets of Israeli military attacks, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has declared an emergency in Gaza.

In the West Bank, Israeli military raids continue daily in Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, and casualties are continued to be caused by the excessive, lethal force of the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, including peaceful demonstrators. Homes have been demolished. Since the start of the recent crisis, on 12 June, more than 850 Palestinians have been arrested or detained, bringing the total number of Palestinians captive in Israeli jails to more than 6,000, including children, women and elected officials. Moreover, settler violence, terrorism and incitement against Palestinian civilians, especially children and farmers, and acts of destruction against Palestinian homes, orchards and religious sites continue unabated under the protection of occupying forces, which the Israeli Government illegally transferred to the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

At this moment, the Palestinian death toll stands at more than 80 people — in fact, it could be above 90. Today, an entire family of eight was decimated as a result of the heinous attacks and aggression by the Israeli occupying forces against our people in Gaza. Hundreds more civilians have been wounded by Israeli airstrikes, tank shelling, live ammunition, rubber bullets, stun grenades, tear gas canisters and beatings. Many are in critical condition.

Children, who in Gaza constitute over half of the population, are suffering disproportionately and, similar to Israel's military savagery of December 2008 to January 2009 and November 2012, are among the many victims. Deepening the trauma, families also continue to bear multiple tragedies, with some families being decimated by Israeli attacks. Among the family of eight people murdered today were five children. We bear witness to their suffering and recall here some of the many lives that have been lost to this insane, inhumane Israeli brutality.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

From this forum, I should like to salute the people of Gaza and to reiterate that the Israeli aggression will not alter the determination of our people, which is stronger than any measures of collective punishment or reppression by the occupying authority against the Palestinian people, in particular against the 1.7 million citizens of our beloved Gaza. We recall the memory of our martyrs killed as a result of the current aggression. On behalf of the entire Palestinian people, the Palestinian Authority and others around the world who love peace and justice, we honour their memory, which will remain with us in heart and spirit. We will not forget our beloved children who have been the victims of settler acts and the Israeli occupying authorities.

No act in self-defence can justifty the killing of children or the oppression of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. I should like to mention just a few of the Palestinian children who have been martyred by the occupation: Mohammed Abu Khdeir, 16; Ghanim Abdelgafoor, 1; Mohammed Malaki, 2; Mohammed Khalaf Al-Nouassrah, 4; Nidal Khalef Al-Nouassrah, 5; Siraj Abdel-al, 8; Bassim Qawareh, 10; Mohammed Ashour, 13; Hussein Qawareh, 14; and the child Abdullah Abughazel, 4, who died today.

(*spoke in English*)

We reject the audacious claims by Israel that the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza is being used as a so-called human shield, while it knowingly and intentionally strikes at densely populated civilian areas. We also reject the claims of self-defence by Israel, while, despite the prohibition under international law, it deliberately carries out reprisals and collective punishment against the Palestinian people in declared retaliation and revenge, directly called for by the Israeli Prime Minister himself, for the killing of three Israeli settlers, which the Palestinian leadership has clearly condemned.

We recall that Israel abruptly suspended the peace negotiations in April in response to the reconciliation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas — a legitimate and necessary step long called for by our people, as well as by the international community. We also recall that Israel has publicly declared its opposition to the Palestinian national unity Government and has used every baseless pretext to provoke and undermine the Palestinian Government with the aim of forcing its collapse, including through the latest military aggression. We condemn such cynical tactics, provocations and illegal behaviour and call on the international community also to condemn it.

There can be no justification for the killing of innocent civilians, no matter where, when or by whom. All pretexts suggesting otherwise must be rejected. Instead, all efforts must be exerted to bring a halt to the violence and terror that are being perpetrated against civilians, including through measures to uphold and to enforce respect for international law. The Security Council cannot remain paralysed and marginalized

as Israeli war crimes continue against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and a new cycle of violence consumes everything in its path. The Council must shoulder its responsibilities. It must act to protect civilian lives, de-escalate the current crisis and salvage the prospects for peace and security in our troubled region. If it fails to do so, it will further diminish its own credibility and will be complicit in allowing innocent children, women and men to die and the situation to further destabilize, with far-reaching consequences.

We call in particular for the protection of the Palestinian people. Israel has clearly violated and abdicated its responsibility as an occupying Power to ensure the safety and well-being of the civilian population under its occupation. The international community, in line with its legal obligations — and I stress the obligations of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention — must therefore ensure the protection of our people until the end of the military occupation. In that regard, I wish to inform the Council that President Abbas has officially conveyed to Switzerland, the depository, a request to convene the high contracting parties to consider measures to uphold their obligations, under common article 1 and article 146, on penal sanctions for grave breaches, and to enforce the Convention in occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

The Palestinian people, whose resilience and steadfastness we honour and praise, look to the Security Council at this critical moment to uphold its resolutions and abiding principles first and foremost to save lives and to safeguard the prospects for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the two-State solution and the pre-1967 borders, on which the international community is united but which has been so gravely undermined by Israel. A firm message must be sent by the Council to Israel to immediately cease its aggression against the Palestinian people and to abide by its obligations under international law. Moreover, it is high time that Israel, the occupying Power, be held accountable for its countless human rights violations and war crimes, including the killing of Palestinian civilians, the wanton destruction of Palestinian property and the malicious colonization of Palestinian land.

We call on the Security Council to act now to stop the bleeding in occupied Palestine, including the latest Israeli war on Gaza, and to revive our dying hope in the prospects for an end to the occupation and the tragic conflict, the achievement of peace and the realization of the aspirations of Palestinians for their freedom, rights and justice, which have too long been denied.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): I would first like to thank the Secretary-General for his remarks. In the time that he spoke, another five rockets were fired from Gaza into southern Israel, one of which fell on a house. Before I begin my statement, I would like to thank Ambassador Gasana for presiding over this important meeting.

As I speak, there is a storm of rockets being fired by the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza. Hamas is intentionally and indiscriminately threatening the lives of 3.5 million innocent men, women and children in Israel from the south to the north — from Beersheba to Tel Aviv and Haifa. In the past three days, 442 rockets have been fired into Israel. That is one every 10 minutes. Fifteen seconds is how much time one has to run for one's life. Imagine having only 15 seconds to find a bomb shelter. Now imagine doing that with small children, elderly parents or an ailing friend. A generation of Israeli children is growing up under the shadow of that threat. Such an abnormal way of life has become the norm for many Israelis. That is absolutely unacceptable. No nation, no people and no Government could tolerate it.

Hamas dragged us into this conflict. On the evening of 12 June, three Israeli teenagers — Eyal, Gilad and Naftali — were on their way home from school when they were kidnapped and murdered by Hamas terrorists. In the days that followed, Hamas began raining rockets indiscriminately on our homes and cities. While Israel showed restraint, Hamas responded with unrestrained aggression. There were more rockets and more terror attacks. Some people in this Chamber have criticized Israel for finally responding to those provocations. They have accused us of reacting disproportionately. Asking Israel to show restraint while our cities are under constant attack is like asking a fire brigade to battle an inferno with nothing more than buckets of water.

No country would accept the threats that Israel faces. We are determined to give Israelis the safety and security that they deserve. This week, Israel launched a self-defence operation, called Protective Edge, to counter the attacks, to defend our citizens and to

secure for them a life without a constant threat. The goal of our operation is to remove the threat posed by Hamas by dismantling its military infrastructure and to restore calm in Israel. We are not looking for a band-aid solution that will allow Hamas to rest and regroup. We are not going to give them so-called time out so that they can replenish their rocket supplies and hit us again in a few weeks.

Israel is taking great measures to avoid harming innocent civilians. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) warn the Palestinians in Gaza of imminent strikes. At the same time, Hamas instructs those civilians to stand on the roofs of those buildings and to act as human shields. Hamas exploits our concern for human life by hiding in Palestinian homes, schools and mosques and by using the basement of a hospital in Gaza as its headquarters. They are committing a double war crime, targeting Israeli civilians while hiding behind Palestinian civilians. Hamas is targeting the supply lines of its own people. It is firing rockets at an electrical plant in Ashkelon that is keeping the lights on for the citizens of Gaza. Earlier this week, Hamas blew up a tunnel near the Kerem Shalom crossing, and it has been firing rockets and missiles at this critical entry point. Let me be clear. Hamas is targeting the only crossing through which food, medicine and other essentials enter Gaza. That is how much it really cares about its own people. Despite the attacks, Israel is keeping the crossing open, and on Tuesday and Wednesday 242 truckloads of goods were delivered into the Gaza Strip.

Members of this body have repeatedly criticized Israel for restricting the entry of construction materials into Gaza. Let me explain what that cement and steel are being used for. They are certainly not being used to build schools, kindergartens or homes. They are being used to build rockets that Hamas shoots indiscriminately at Israeli schools, kindergartens and homes. They are being used to build terror tunnels that Hamas uses to kidnap Israelis.

Over the past few years, Hamas has built up a massive military machine with 10,000 rockets. Israel is now acting to dismantle that machine. Hamas is determined to escalate the situation with an arsenal it has acquired courtesy of one of the world's primary sponsors of terrorism, Iran. In March, Iran was caught red-handed trying to transfer long-range missiles into Gaza. Those missiles have a range of 160 kilometres and can hit Israel's largest population centres. Hamas must understand that it cannot target Israeli civilians. Just this morning, on one of our highways, the IDF stopped a car that was packed with explosives, en route to carrying out a suicide attack. Earlier this week, terrorists infiltrated Israel from the sea on a mission to attack a nearby kibbutz.

I would like to remind the Council that the terrorist group behind those attacks has a seat in the Palestinian unity Government. Hamas is recognized internationally as a terrorist organization by many countries, including members of the Security Council — the same Hamas that does not recognize Israel and promotes a genocidal agenda by seeking Israel's destruction. Its Charter states clearly that Israel exists and will continue to exist until Islam obliterates it. Hamas is practising what it preaches. It has sent suicide bombers into our shopping centres, buses and cafés. It has brainwashed an entire generation of Palestinian children and sent thousands of young people to terrorist training camps. Since 2013, it has attempted to kidnap 64 Israelis.

Members of the international community have embraced this Fatah-Hamas partnership, even though Hamas has not changed its tune or acted in concert with the Quartet principles. It has not recognized Israel, renounced violence or accepted previous agreements. Nonetheless, the international community has been willing to buy into this bad deal, and now Israeli citizens are paying the price. It is time for the international community to right this wrong and make it clear to Hamas that unity does not equal impunity.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian observer sits in this Chamber and has the audacity to shield Hamas even as that terror organization uses its own people as human shields. In his remarks, he did not mention a single one of the rockets fired into Israel — 442 rockets, and he does not say a word. His silence is as deafening as the rockets exploding in Israel right now. Through his choice of words, the Palestinian observer has become the mouthpiece of Hamas. Since when does a terror organization get a seat and a voice in the United Nations?

For years, we have called on the international community to condemn the rocket fire. We have been met with silence. For years, we spoke about the thousands of rockets that Hamas was smuggling into Gaza. Everyone thought we were exaggerating and said not a word. For years, we warned of the impending escalation and were ignored. Now that the rockets are landing in our backyard and the terrorists are on our doorstep, it is time for the international community to

finally recognize Hamas for what it really is — a terrorist organization that should be denounced, dismantled and delegitimized.

Unlike our enemies, Israel believes in the infinite value of human life. The Bible says, "I have set before you life and death.... therefore choose life." The Jewish people always choose life. Yet that is not what we see on the other side. In 2005, Israel evacuated from Gaza and in the process uprooted 12,000 Israelis from their homes. The Palestinians had the opportunity to build a prosperous and peaceful society. Instead of building the Palestinian people up, they have committed to tearing Israel down. Instead of choosing life, they celebrate death. In Gaza, there are public squares and hospitals named after terrorists. Visit a Gaza school and there are children dressed up as suicide bombers and chanting death threats to Israel. Visit the home of Abu Aysha's mother, and she will say how proud she is that her son was behind the kidnapping and murder of Eyal, Gilad and Naftali. A culture that celebrates martyrdom and murder is a culture that will always be at war with itself and with its neighbours.

Israel is at the forefront of the free world in fighting radical Islamic terrorism. The threat posed by terrorism is a global one — the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Hizbullah and Hamas. From Abuja to Fallujah, terrorists are attacking our schools and skyscrapers, our homes and hospitals, our malls and embassies. No nation is immune. If the international community wants the nations of the world to stand with it in the battle against terrorism tomorrow, it must stand with Israel today. The call from our capitals must be loud and clear — opposing terrorism in one place means opposing it in every place.

It is our cities, homes and families that are under fire right now. I ask each and every person in this Chamber what they would do if it was their family under attack. What would they expect their own Governments to do? There is only one responsible course of action for the Council — it is to condemn Hamas, condemn terrorism and condemn the rocket fire. It must call on President Abbas to dissolve the unity Government and support Israel's right to defend itself. That is the only way to achieve peace in our region.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.